

Demirel warns Ozal to keep out of politics

ANKARA (R) — Election winner Süleyman Demirel, quietly backing away from a pledge to oust President Turgut Ozal, warned him Wednesday to stay out of Turkish politics. "No one will meddle in what does not concern him," Mr. Demirel told a news conference in an unmistakable swipe at Mr. Ozal. "The newly formed parliament and future governments are no longer under the protection or mortgage of Ankara," he said, referring to Mr. Ozal's bid for presidential office in Ankara. "His powers are described in the constitution. If he exercises them, there will be no problem. But if he tries to exercise power vested in the government, he will not be able to," said Mr. Demirel, set to become Turkey's next prime minister. Mr. Demirel's warning followed a declaration by Mr. Ozal that he was withdrawing from an active part in government. "The Ozal era has ended," the president told Hürriyet newspaper. "I do not want to play any role from now on." Mr. Ozal gave no hint that he would resign as his main political rival, who was weighing coalition options Wednesday, repeatedly demanded during the election campaign. The two men now appear to have laid the basis for a deal to avert a damaging constitutional clash after Sunday's election.

Sole Maghreb envoy at Mideast talks

PARIS (R) — The five North African members of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) have agreed to be represented by the organisation's secretary-general, Mohammed Amamou, at the Madrid Middle East peace conference, Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia said on Wednesday. The five countries — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia — have been invited as observers. "The reply to the invitation is going out today. We are giving a collective reply like the Gulf Cooperation Council," Mr. Ben Yahia told a news conference in Paris. Mr. Amamou is a diplomatic adviser to Tunisia's President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Rafsanjani, Fahd to meet in December

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd are expected to meet in December, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Wednesday. It would be the first meeting between the leaders of the two countries since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution. IRNA said Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mansour Mottaki, currently in Riyadh, conveyed a verbal message from Mr. Rafsanjani to King Fahd.

Turkey seizes arms-laden ship

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has seized a Cypriot-registered freighter carrying 2,000 surface-to-air missile launchers, anti-aircraft guns and other weapons to Cyprus, a senior security official said Wednesday. The official, who asked not to be named, said that the Greek Cypriot captain of the Cape Myles had given them their destination as Iran but that the Turkish authorities "had firm information that the ship was bound for Greek Cyprus, and not Iran." Turkish customs officials, acting on a tip-off, seized the 7,200 gross tonnes vessel Tuesday as it crossed the Bosphorus waterway. The official said it was coming from Bulgaria where the weapons, mostly made in east Europe, had been loaded. The 25 crew members were being questioned in Istanbul Wednesday while security officials searched the freighter, which was anchored off Buyukdere Bay near the Black Sea inlet of the 19-mile Bosphorus waterway.

U.N. force in W. Sahara nears 1,000

RABAT (R) — Nearly 1,000 military and civilian members of a U.N. peacekeeping force have arrived in Western Sahara to monitor a ceasefire and organise a self-determination referendum there next year, officials said Wednesday. The force known as MINURSO will eventually number nearly 3,000 people from 34 countries.

Two Turkish soldiers, Kurdish rebel killed

ANKARA (R) — Two soldiers and a separatist Kurdish rebel were killed in a gunbattle in eastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolian agency reported Wednesday. It said they died when Turkish forces patrolling a rural area near Diger town in Kars province clashed with guerrillas of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) Tuesday night. More than 3,300 people have been killed in the violent independence campaign launched by the PKK in mid-1984.

France issues warrant for Iranian official

PARIS (AP) — France has issued an international arrest warrant for an Iranian government official in connection with the slaying of former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiari, judicial sources reported. The warrant seeks the arrest of Hossein Sheikhat, 42, a councillor to the Iranian Telecommunications Ministry, on charges of conspiracy to commit murder, associating with criminals, and "interference relating to a terrorist enterprise."

Arabs meet in Damascus to coordinate positions

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Arab foreign ministers met in Damascus Wednesday to coordinate plans for Middle East talks in which the main delegations will face Israel separately on the key issues — peace and borders.

The meeting began with ministers from Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, the Arab states which border Israel, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is barred from the conference table but will play a backstage role directing a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

After an afternoon break they were joined by the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Morocco, representing six Gulf and five North African states.

The peace conference, called by the United States and the Soviet Union, opens in Madrid next Wednesday.

After a ceremonial opening the central questions, on which the Arabs seek a land-for-peace settlement, will be tackled in bilateral meetings due to start on Nov. 2.

Syria was seeking commitments from the others to resist group talks with Israel that could lead to normalising relations, until there is a clear decision in negotiations over returning territory, stopping settlements and the future of Jerusalem.

Sources close to the meeting said the parties agreed that there would be no separate peace deals signed with Israel like the 1979 Camp David accords signed by Egypt.

The conference in Madrid is expected to break up into three sets of bilateral talks between Israel and Syria, Lebanon and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Then the other states in the area are supposed to join the discussions on broader issues like arms control, water and energy — seen as a move that would automatically give Israel the status of an equal in the region that tried to ostracise it.

Syria has already told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the godfather of the current peace process, that it opposed the convening of such a regional conference until Israel's "intentions" became clearer.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat last week agreed that the question of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, the status of Jerusalem and the U.N. resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from territories it occupied in 1967 be discussed at the initial meeting.

Conference sources said Damascus wanted to make acceptance of group talks depend on Israel's stance on these three issues.

The pre-conference meeting was inaugurated by Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa. Jordan and Egypt were represented by foreign ministers Khaled Abu Jaber and Amr Musa.

Lebanon was represented by its transportation minister, Shawky Fakhoury, a career diplomat, and the PLO sent its political department chief, Farouk Kaddoumi.

They were later joined by Saudi and Moroccan foreign ministers Prince Saud Al Faisal and Abdul Latif Filali.

On arrival in Damascus, Prince Saud said that he had come to the "coordination conference" as representative of his kingdom and its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council — Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

Asked where the GCC stands on the group conference, he said, "we are here to discuss that. As the GCC, we would be involved in such a conference, and we are here to discuss that."

The duration of the Damascus gathering was left open. But Arab diplomats said that if the ministers fail to agree on a unified stand by Friday, the five countries' heads of state will hold a summit before the Madrid peace conference opens next Wednesday under U.S. and Soviet sponsorship.

Mr. Sharaa, Mr. Musa, Mr. Abu Jaber and Mr. Bweiz were expected to lead their countries' delegations to the Madrid talks.

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Israel wants U.S. assurances over Palestinian advisory panel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has no immediate objections to the 14 Palestinian delegates to the Madrid peace conference, but wants U.S. assurances that a Palestinian advisory committee will not play any role in the talks, officials said Wednesday.

The seven-member advisory group includes some Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem and others living abroad. Israel has said it would negotiate only with Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip who have no ties to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The composition of the Palestinian delegation has been one of the key obstacles on the road to the conference.

Israeli officials also insisted Wednesday that the bilateral talks, which are to begin four days after the Oct. 30 opening of the conference in Madrid, should be held in the Middle East, rotating between Israel and the Arab states.

"This could be the first sign of a process of normalisation, between Israel and the Arabs," said Yossi Olmert, head of the government press office.

Israel Radio reported that Yossi Olmert, head of the government press office, and Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would be part of the delegation. It also said that hardline parliament members Benjamin Begin, son of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and Uzi Landau may participate.

The Arab states have refused the Israeli demand. Syria reportedly insists that Israel first must show readiness to withdraw from occupied land and halt Jewish settlements there.

The Americans have offered Washington as an alternative site, the Haaretz daily reported Wednesday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met with senior cabinet ministers Wednesday. He told them Israel would check the backgrounds of the Palestinian delegates and then make its final decision on whether to go to Madrid, Israel Radio said.

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Cambodia peace pact signed

PARIS (Agencies) — Officials of 19 nations Wednesday signed a peace treaty meant to end decades of war in Cambodia, but new fighting was reported in the South-West Asian country and diplomats fretted over the role of the Khmer Rouge.

The first to sign the documents in five languages — Khmer, French, English, Russian and Chinese — were foreign ministers Roland Dumas of France and Ali Alatas of Indonesia, co-chairmen of the conference and repositories of the accord.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar signed on behalf of the United Nations, which will run a transitional authority to keep the peace, disarm guerrillas, rehabilitate refugees and organise elections in Cambodia.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of a Supreme National Council which will jointly run Cambodia until the elections in early 1993, was the first of the Cambodian leaders to sign.

All 12 members of the Supreme National Council signed the documents, including Kien Samphan representing the hardline Communist Khmer Rouge, blamed for the killing of more than a million Cambodians during the 1975-79 period.

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Shamir to lead delegation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will head Israel's delegation to next week's Middle East peace conference in Madrid, the prime minister's spokesman said Wednesday.

In what appeared to be a major split in the government, Foreign Minister David Levy announced he would not be attending the conference. Levy's army radio reported. It said, however, Mr. Levy "at this point doesn't intend to resign."

Foreign ministry spokesmen had no immediate comment. In announcing that Mr. Shamir would head the delegation, prime minister spokesman Ehud Gol also said Israel was officially accepting the U.S. and Soviet invitation to the conference.

"Prime Minister Shamir decided to head the Israeli delegation to the Madrid conference," Mr. Gol said.

He said the rest of the delegation would be named "in a few days."

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Baker is optimistic peace talks will be a success

PARIS (Agencies) — Despite hardline talk by the opposing parties, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker predicted Wednesday that the delegations to the upcoming Middle East peace conference would work to make it succeed.

He commented before talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, who at a later news conference referred to "solidarity" between the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Baker was asked about the prospects for the U.S.-Soviet sponsored conference scheduled to open Oct. 30 in Madrid.

"I can certainly say that the minister and I both hope the meeting will be a success," Mr. Baker said. "But let's not forget we're dealing with the Middle East."

He said only 14 people will receive credentials from each delegation, including the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will address the question of a Palestinian homeland.

His remarks came a day after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the Palestinian delegation would in effect be representing the PLO. Israel has said it would refuse to negotiate with Palestinians speaking in the name of the PLO.

Mr. Baker refused to comment on Mr. Arafat remarks, saying:

"I think everybody involved in the process understands what the ground rules are."

"I think that for the most part, the people involved really want to see this process move forward," he said. "They want to take advantage of what is really perhaps an historic opportunity, and I think they will."

Mr. Baker refused to speculate on the outcome of the Madrid meeting.

"I'm not going to predict what might or might not happen once the parties decide to sit down together. Let's first see them sit down together, something they've so far been unwilling to do."

The Bush administration said Tuesday, the Palestinians who negotiate with Israel will be permitted to have advisers who may not meet U.S. standards for direct participation in the peace conference.

It appeared to clear the way for an off-shore role for Palestinians who might have been rejected by Israel as delegates. Presumably, they could form a steering committee and advise the Palestinians engaged in the negotiations.

The delegations in our view are free to consult with anyone they choose," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "Any advisers are not part of the

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Palestinian expert reports close coordination with Jordanian side

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — All outstanding issues between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides to the joint delegation which will attend peace talks with Israel next week have been settled and the two sides will continue close coordination throughout the peace process, a senior Palestinian official said Wednesday.

Nabil Shaath, who heads a committee of Palestinian experts which will guide the negotiating team, reported that his team held a first round of talks with a Jordanian technical committee and described the discussions as successful.

Dr. Shaath, a political advisor to

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, said the meeting reviewed the issues that would be discussed during the first three days of the Madrid conference, which will then break up into three sets of bilateral talks.

Dr. Shaath, speaking at a press conference after delivering a lecture at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, emphasised the high level of coordination reached between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

"There is every need to coordinate everything before we go to the Madrid conference and that is exactly what we have done today," Dr. Shaath said. "And I think it was a very successful meeting and we shall proceed with these meetings until the success and completion of the peace process."

Dr. Shaath, who is a member of the Palestine Central Council (PCC), said that there were no problems between

the Jordanian and Palestinian sides that needed to be "ironed out."

"We discussed the initial conference, the first three days and the starting positions of the bilateral talks; that is, we are really in the nitty gritty of the process now," Dr. Shaath said.

The meeting of the technical committees came in line with a political agreement reached between Jordan and the PLO.

Dr. Shaath declined to detail the principles that the Jordanians and Palestinians agree on, but stressed that there was "full coordination; there is a clarity of objectives and we are going together to achieve the rights of our people and to install peace that is lasting, just and comprehensive."

Dr. Shaath confirmed reports that two members of the Jordanian delegation would be "ironed out."

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Mideast is going nuclear — Arens

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens was quoted Wednesday as saying the Middle East was moving into the nuclear weapons age and Israel would have to prepare for this situation.

Israeli newspapers said Mr. Arens briefed parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee Tuesday in a discussion that also dealt with Iraq's emerging nuclear potential.

The briefing came two days after a book published in New York this week said that Israel has nearly 300 nuclear warheads on artillery shells, missiles and land mines. The U.S. government's previous estimates were fewer than 100.

"The Middle East is moving towards an age of nuclear weapons. We will have to live with this reality, to prepare for it accordingly and in parallel work also in the political realm," Mr. Arens said, according to the newspapers.

Mr. Arens also said he was worried that Iraqi nuclear know-how could fall into the hands of other Arab states such as Libya, the Yedioth Ahronoth daily reported.

Neither Iraq nor Libya will attend a Middle East peace conference planned for Oct. 30 in Madrid.

Seymour Hersh, author of the book on Israel's nuclear arms, said Israel readied nuclear weapons for firing three times in the last 18 years, twice in the 1973 Middle East war and again in the Gulf war last January and February.

Israeli officials declined comment on the book in keeping with the government's customary refusal to discuss allegations of an Israeli nuclear potential.

A vote on a nuclear weapons resolution was delayed Tuesday in the U.N. General Assembly when Iraq urged an amendment criticising Israel's refusal of international inspection of its nuclear facilities. The resolution criticises "Iraq's non-compliance with its non-proliferation obligations."

An Iranian vice-president said in an interview published Wednesday the Muslim World should seek parity in nuclear weapons with Israel.

Abdollah Mojtaherani, the vice-president in charge of legal and parliamentary affairs, told Abrar newspaper that ideally Israel's nuclear arsenal should receive the same treatment as Iraq's nuclear programme, which the United Nations is dismantling under Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

"Israel should be totally deprived of its nuclear capacity. I mean what has been done to Iraq in respect of its nuclear capacity should be done exactly to Israel," he said.

If Israel retained its nuclear weapons, however, Muslims should work together to make their own nuclear bomb regardless of any U.N. attempt to prevent nuclear proliferation, he added.

"Because the enemy has nuclear facilities the Muslim states, too, should (have) the same

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Israel pursues push to set up new settlements

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Jewish settlers moved into a house in Jerusalem's Muslim quarter Wednesday but denied the takeover was linked to next week's Middle East peace conference.

Members of the Ateret Cohanim religious seminary, which has settled 35 families and 150 students in the Muslim quarter of the Old City, walked together through the strike-bound Arab streets to dedicate the house.

The house stands next to an apartment owned by Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, head of the cabinet hawkish opposition to the Oct. 30 conference.

"We did not plan this because of the peace conference," Ateret Cohanim (crown of priests) spokesman Yossi Bamool said.

"However, we don't feel that Jews should lead their normal everyday Jewish life because there's a peace conference, when 95 per cent of the people of

Israel feel we should stay here, that this should be part of the state of Israel."

Settlers are opposed to the Madrid peace talks, fearing Israel could be forced into handing back some of the Arab land it occupied in 1967.

Settlers, supported by the government, moved into houses in the nearby Arab neighbourhood of Silwan shortly before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited last week to announce the historic conference.

Arabs have called for a halt to Jewish settlement in Arab Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The United States calls the settlements an obstacle to peace.

Israel Television reported Tuesday that the government plans a new settlement drive in the Golan Heights to hamper any efforts to return the land.

The report said housing minis-

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Palestinian hardliners enforce general strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian hardliners enforced a general strike across the Israeli-occupied territories on Wednesday in a test of wills between supporters and opponents of a Middle East peace conference.

Palestinians said Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip reluctantly observed the strike ordered by Marxist and Muslim fundamentalists two days ago to protest at the conference starting in Madrid next Wednesday.

Witnesses in Gaza City said masked youths from the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) forced shops to close and stoned motorists who ignored the strike call.

Relatives of Palestinians killed, wounded or jailed in the four-year-old revolt against Israeli occupation demonstrated outside the Arab East Jerusalem home of veteran nationalist Faisal Al Husseini. They demanded he stay away from the peace talks.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) decision to allow Palestinians from the occupied territories to participate in the U.S.-brokered Middle East conference has split the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Opposition to the talks has forged an unlikely alliance of the Marxist PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and Hamas.

The PFLP and DFLP — both normally allies of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh movement — issued a rare joint statement with their traditional rival Hamas Monday calling the strike and threatening to use guns to torpedo the talks.

In Nabulus, supporters of Fateh did not try to stop activists opposed to the conference from closing down the city.

Witnesses said Hizbollah had moved heavy artillery to the hill-top villages of Maidoun and Ain Al Tach — its main strongholds near the Israeli occupied zone.

Israeli combat planes flew reconnaissance missions over the south for a third successive day Wednesday, witnesses said.

The increased tension followed a wave of attacks by guerrillas. Israeli planes destroyed a Hizbollah base Monday to avenge the killings.

Israeli artillery shelled the villages of Kfar Roumiane, Arab Salim, Qabriha and Jibseet.

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Senior officials reshuffled

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Wednesday announced a reshuffle of senior government officials involving 13 ministries and government departments.

According to the cabinet announcement, the following changes were made:

— Adel Al Qudah will be director of the Audit Bureau replacing Hashem Dahhas who has been retired.

— Salman Tarawneh will be secretary general of the Audit Bureau replacing Abdul Razzak Al Sayyan, who has been retired.

— Mohammad Smadi will be director general of the Budget Department replacing Salman Al Tarawneh.

— Dr. Dureid Mahasneh will be director general of the Jordan Ports Corporation replacing Mohammad Smadi.

— Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan, director of the customs department, will become director general of the Jordan Investment Corporation.

— Marwan Awad, a senior official at the Central Bank of Jordan will become secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade replacing Ibrahim Badran.

— Dr. Badran will be an advisor at the Prime Ministry.

— Salem Lawzi will become director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation replacing Fahed Al Azah, who has been retired.

— Dr. Lawzi, who was advisor at the Prime Ministry, was earlier temporarily appointed secretary general for the Ministry of Agriculture.

— Ghaleb Abu Arrahli, who was director of the Forestry Department will become secretary general of the Ministry of Agriculture replacing Dr. Sami Sunnaa who has resigned.

— Mohammad Al Jamal, who was director of the Procurement Department, will be director general of the Customs Department replacing Dr. Farhan.

— Mansour Haddadin, a senior official at the Finance Ministry, will be director general of the Income Tax Department replacing Mr. Qudah.

— Omayyah Touqan from the Central Bank of Jordan will be director general of the Amman Financial Market.

— Abdul Hamid Al Hiyari from the Finance Ministry will become director general of the Procurement Department replacing Mr. Jamal.

According to reliable sources the changes were routine which normally follows the formation of new government.

"The changes were designed to have the right persons in the right place of work," said a senior source.

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Palestinians hope for peace amid scepticism over talks

By Eileen Alt Powell
The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank — Merchants and shoppers along Palestine Street in this West Bank town say they are eager for peace but unsure that Middle East talks opening next week in Madrid can bring it about.

"Now everything is posturing," Ridda Hamoudi said Tuesday as he stocked canned goods in his grocery. "On Oct. 30, maybe there will be a beginning. Then we will see who is serious."

Still, he gives next week's peace conference just a 30 per cent chance of success. "Until now, both sides do not want to compromise," he said. The hope of many in this town is that the peace conference, under American and Soviet auspices, will be the first step towards an independent homeland for the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

They would like to be rid of Israeli soldiers who patrol their streets in full battle gear, of Jewish drivers who roar past on their way to the settlements burgeoning in the West Bank.

"We have lived under occupation for 24 years," said pharmacist Ahmad Al Bustani. "We must have our legitimate, national rights. We must have freedom for our own lives."

The white stone shops and houses that line Palestine Street have, at times, been the frontline in the 3½-year Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Two years ago, an Israeli tax collector was killed and three others were burned when their car was firebombed on the street. Shops often are shuttered in strikes protesting Israeli rule. Walls are scarred with anti-Israel slogans in red and green paint.

"No to emaciated autonomy," says the latest graffiti from leftist Palestinian factions. "There is no alternative to a Palestinian state."

But Palestinians here do not expect Israel to agree to independence, or even limited autonomy, without heavy pressure from the United States.

The headline government of Prime Minister

Yitzhak Shamir has vowed not to cede any territory and opposes a Palestinian state.

"There will be a solution only if the Americans are willing to pressure (Israel) for it and then to see that it is carried out," said Issa Kahoutsh, a 35-year-old labourer who stopped at the grocery to buy bread. "They did it in Kuwait, maybe now they will do it here," either the Americans or Soviets will be honest brokers.

"For 40 years, the Soviet Union has been supplying Israel with immigrants," said Hakhak Jamil, who works at a vegetable stand. "And for 40 years, the United States has been supplying Israel with weapons."

"They are to be the peacemakers?" he asked. People here believe much is riding on the peace talks, the first since Egypt made its separate peace with the Jewish state in 1979 and regained the Sinai peninsula.

Salha Saleh, 63, a shopper in Jamil's market, argued that freedom from Israeli occupation would mean that her brother, Abdul Jawad Saleh, could return from exile in Jordan.

Mr. Saleh, once the mayor of adjacent Al Bireh, was expelled by Israel in 1973 for leading a nationalist Palestinian group.

"Peace would mean we have a right to stay in our homeland," she said. "If Russians and Ethiopians can come here, why can't my brother?"

Ms. Saleh and grocer Hamoudi said their greatest concern was Israel's campaign to double the number of Jewish settlers to 200,000 in the occupied territories by next year.

"There must be a freeze," said Mr. Hamoudi. "The more they are here, the more tension there is and the more likely the soldiers will come."

There are some on the street solely against the conference and predict that its failure will fuel a resurgence of the Palestinian uprising.

"The cards are stacked against us," says Arafat Zaki, 20, as he cut shelves in his father's carpentry shop. "Peace will not come from a conference. What is taken by force will be restored by force."

He added softly: "Maybe I will be proved wrong."

Sudan talks postponed

LAGOS (R) — Peace talks between the Sudanese government and southern rebels, due to begin in Nigeria next week, have been postponed after a split in the rebel ranks, Nigerian radio said Wednesday.

It quoted a Nigerian government statement as saying the delay in the talks would allow efforts to mend the rift between the mainstream rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and a faction led by commanders Riek Mashaar and Lam Akol.

No new dates were given for the talks which were to have been held in Nigeria's future capital Abuja between Oct. 28 and Nov. 7.

The statement said peace talks could only be meaningful if all parties to the eight-year-old Sudanese conflict attended.

It said all sides to the dispute had expressed support for Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida's peace initiative and looked forward to the convening of the talks soon.

The government of General Babangida, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, would intensify its efforts to reunite the two SPLA factions, the statement said.

Nigeria's special envoy on the Sudan crisis, Olu Sanni, had made contact with Mr. Mashaar and Mr. Akol in Nairobi and planned to hold talks with all SPLA factions, it said.

In August, Mr. Mashaar and Mr. Akol and another commander, Gordon Keang, said they had topped SPLA leader John Garang who they accused of waging "a reign of terror" in rebel camps and among civilians in southern Sudan.

Colonel Garang says he enjoys the support of the SPLA, which is fighting against what it regards as the domination of the south by the north.

Bulk of treasures back in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (R) — Iraq has returned most of the treasures it took from Kuwait's national museum during its occupation of the emirate, but some pieces are still unaccounted for, a museum official said Wednesday.

"Around 80 per cent of the items have arrived," said Fahd Al Wohaibi, the museum's director of antiquities. "We are expecting some more within a week, but some items are missing."

"The Iraqis may have hidden them, they may have been robbed, burned during the war or have gone to the market," he added. "We're addressing letters to the United Nations to inform them about it."

Mr. Wohaibi said the missing pieces include small statues, pottery, glasses, fine art objects and paintings dating back to the Hellenistic Age and Bronze Age.

Iraq troops carried off almost everything of value in Kuwait after their Aug. 2, 1990 invasion. Before the occupation, Kuwait's national museum boasted one of the top five Islamic collections in the world.

The U.N. Security Council ceasefire that ended the Gulf war called for the return of all property Iraq took from Kuwait. Some items, such as gold bars, two passenger planes and some manuscripts, have already been returned.

Mr. Wohaibi said he expected more pieces from Iraq within a week, including archaeological objects, traditional gold jewelry, old costumes and archives.

Tehran Palestine meeting rejects Madrid conference

NICOSIA (Agencies) — An Iranian-sponsored conference on Palestine has rejected the Middle East peace conference in Madrid and called for armed struggle against Israel.

In a statement issued at the end of the conference late on Tuesday, ministers, parliamentarians and revolutionaries from 60 countries urged Islamic states to form a joint force named the Al Quds (Jerusalem) army to liberate all of Palestine.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), received in Cyprus, carried the full text of the 28-point declaration which called on Islamic and Arab countries to reject all conciliatory efforts which will lead to formal recognition of Israel.

"The conference resolutely affirms the historical rights and undeniable sovereignty of the Palestinian people over the entire Palestinian territory."

"It strongly supports the deep-rooted struggle... for the total liberation of occupied lands, elimination of the Zionist existence and creation of an independent Palestinian state."

"The conference considers the Zionist regime a fictitious and illegitimate entity and its establishment in the heart of the Islamic lands a premeditated conspiracy by global Zionism and the arrogant powers and enemies of Islam," the statement said, according to IRNA.

In his opening speech of the conference, Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Iran was ready to "dispatch troops to fight Israel along with the Palestinians."

Iran strongly opposed the superpower-sponsored peace talks opening in Madrid on Oct. 30. It has described them as "an imposed conference designed to sow discord among the Muslims."

In a reference to the post-Gulf war situation, the statement condemned the presence of U.S. troops in the Gulf region.

Iran has been excluded from security arrangements in the Gulf region and Kuwait last month signed a 10-year security pact with the United States.

The Tehran conference said three committees had been set up

to follow up ways to support the four-year-old uprising in the occupied territories and block the Jewish influx into Israel.

It also decided to set up a permanent secretariat in the Iranian capital to implement the resolutions of the conference. An Islamic countries fund is to be formed to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

The Farsi language-Jamhuri Islami, speaking for the most headline elements inside the Tehran hierarchy, Monday warned that any country or person that helped strengthen Israel "has in fact endorsed the suffering of the Palestinian nation and must be confident it will have to pay back dearly."

Iran has voiced its displeasure not only towards the United States and the Soviet Union, co-sponsors of the conference, but also against all Arab states taking part in the talks. Even Spain has been warned to think twice about playing host.

Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a parliamentarian and leader of Iran's hardliners, told a rally at Tehran University Monday that "all U.S. objectives throughout the world must be targeted."

IRNA quoted him as warning protesters that "the United States wants to uproot Islam."

Speaking at the conference, Abu Musa, leader of the break-away Fateh-Uprising, identified "armed struggle as the sole alternative to confront the Zionist enemy."

Abu Musa, Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Abu Nidal, one of the world's most wanted extremists and scores of other Palestinian and hardline Muslims formed the "revolutionist front" led by Iran.

The fact that Persia, mostly Shiite Iran was the only country that would host the conference underscored how far the groups are from the Arab mainstream.

Even Syria, Iran's closest Arab ally and Israel's staunchest foe, agreed to attend the Madrid peace conference, opening a small rift between the two countries.

U.N. chief hints Najibullah willing to step aside

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar reported Tuesday that "controversial personalities" in Afghanistan — an apparent reference to President Najibullah — were willing to step down to clear the way for a peace accord.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar noted, however, in his annual report on Afghanistan, that these "controversial" leaders have their own conditions.

"They would be willing to relinquish their posts should certain questions pertaining to participation in the intra-Afghan dialogue and the transition mechanism be resolved," the U.N. chief said.

Many of the Mujahedeen rebels have vowed that Mr. Najibullah and his chief aides can have no role in any future Afghan government.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar did not name the "controversial personalities." He said they had assured him they "would not insist on their personal participation" in the peace talks or a transitional government.

U.S. and Soviet diplomats said privately, however, that the reference was to Mr. Najibullah and his chief aides, who would want to preserve a role for the Watan Party in the transitional government even if they were not personally involved.

The U.N. chief added that "I believe that at this stage, as difficult as it may be, we should set aside the question of personalities or their participation and resolve

first the difficulties involved in organising an Afghan gathering with a wider participation," and define the powers of a transitional government.

Within a month, at least 100 Afghans plan to attend a peace conference in Geneva, Switzerland. Among those who have agreed to participate are battlefield commanders, tribal elders and a representative of ousted Afghan King Zahir Shah.

Some of the rebels are weary and ready for a compromise with Mr. Najibullah's government, but others want to fight on and force him from power.

Moderate guerrilla officials in Pakistan on Oct. 13 highlighted remaining obstacles to peace by withdrawing their support for current Prime Minister Fazle Haq Khaliqzai to lead a power-sharing post-war government.

A Moscow-brokered plan calls for Mr. Najibullah to step aside in favour of Mr. Khaliqzai. But the Mujahedeen said Mr. Khaliqzai's association with Mr. Najibullah made him unacceptable to most Afghans.

A five-point plan drafted by the United Nations calls for a mutual cutoff of weapons shipments by the United States and the Soviet Union, a ceasefire and peace talks followed by the installation of a transitional government to oversee elections.

The United States, which has armed the rebels, and the Soviet Union, which supports the government in Kabul, have said they will cut off their shipments of arms on Jan. 1, 1992.

MPs question Maxwell's ties to Mossad; British editor also involved in row

LONDON (Agencies) — Two members of parliament (MPs) have called for investigations of charges that the foreign editor of the Daily Mirror was involved in selling Israeli arms to Iran.

A statement issued by the Daily Mirror said foreign editor Nicholas Davies denied the allegations. The statement added that publisher Robert Maxwell was taking legal action seeking to stop distribution of "The Samson Option" by Seymour Hersh, in which the allegations were published.

George Galloway, a Labour Party lawmaker from Glasgow, presented a motion in the House of Commons calling for an investigation of Mr. Davies' alleged involvement in arms sales.

Mr. Galloway's motion said the book described Mr. Davies as "a longstanding and highly paid Israeli intelligence asset," and claimed that Mr. Davies tipped Israeli intelligence to the whereabouts in London of Mordechai Vannun, a nuclear technician who gave information about Israel's nuclear programme to the Sunday Times.

This allegedly led to Mr. Vannun being lured to Italy where he was kidnapped and returned to Israel, where he is serving a prison sentence in solitary confinement.

Mr. Galloway's motion "calls upon Mirror group publisher, Mr. Robert Maxwell, immediately to appoint an independent tribunal to establish the truth or otherwise of the allegations and, if they are well founded, the extent of foreign intelligence penetration of Mirror group newspapers."

The Mirror generally supports the Labour Party.

A motion in the Commons by Conservative lawmaker Rupert Allason expressed concern about Mr. Hersh's allegation that the Mirror and Mr. Maxwell "have maintained a close relationship with the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad."

Mr. Allason's motion called for the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to inquire into whether U.N. sanctions were broken and urged the Foreign

Office to ban Mirror reporters from its confidential briefings "until an investigation by the appropriate authorities has been completed."

Mr. Allason writes spy novels under the pseudonym Nigel West.

Robert Cole, a spokesman for Mirror group newspapers, said the allegations drawn from Mr. Hersh's book "are a total fabrication."

He said Mr. Maxwell, who is in New York, had described the depictions of Mr. Davies and himself as "indiscreet, a total invention," and promised a libel suit against the publishers as well as the injunction to stop the book's sale.

In a radio interview from Zimbabwe, Mr. Davies told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) he denied all the allegations raised by the politicians. He said he knew an Israeli man mentioned in the motions only as a "journalistic contact."

"They are totally untrue and an absolute fabrication," Mr. Davies said of the Vannun and arms dealing allegations.

Prime Minister John Major was on his way home from the Commonwealth summit in Harare but a cabinet colleague, John Macgregor, answered on his behalf that the government might consider an inquiry into some aspects of the allegations cited by Mr. Allason and Mr. Galloway.

The Allason motion quoted the book as saying that Mr. Davies was in partnership with an Israeli citizen to negotiate the sale of 4,000 two anti-tank missiles to Iran in contravention of a United Nations arms embargo during the Iran-Iraq war.

Macgregor did not respond to the Allason request for Mr. Major to launch an intelligence inquiry but said other branches of government could become involved on the arms aspect.

"If any questions are raised on this issue that justify an investigation by the DTI and any evidence produced, I am sure that they would do so," Mr. Macgregor said during parliamentary question time.

Morocco denies hundreds of Saharan prisoners missing

GENEVA (R) — A senior Moroccan government official has denied at a United Nations meeting that hundreds of Saharan prisoners had disappeared while in Moroccan custody.

Chaouki Serghini, a departmental head at the Moroccan Interior Ministry, told the U.N. Human Rights Committee claims of 300 to 800 missing Saharan captives were incorrect.

He said the Moroccan authorities were examining the cases of 102 prisoners, of whom two had died from natural causes, six had been released and information was still being sought on 94 others.

Mr. Serghini was replying to the 18-member committee's vice-chairman, Francisco Jose Aguilar of Costa Rica, who said Morocco had recently released 300 Saharan prisoners, but demanded to know what had happened to 500 others he said were unaccounted for.

Mr. Serghini said some of the alleged disappearances dated back to 1975 when Spain still ruled the Western Sahara, and to periods when Morocco was not in full control of the territory. He suggested other missing people might be among Saharans in Tindouf, Algerian headquarters of Polisario guerrillas campaigning for an independent Saharan state.

The committee was reviewing how Morocco was meeting its obligations under the Interna-

tional Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The covenant's 98 signatory countries are checked this way every five years.

The examination was postponed from last July when the Moroccan delegation objected to two French television crews being present. There was no television coverage of Tuesday's session.

A Moroccan Justice Ministry official, Ali Attami, avoided answering directly when asked if the widow and family of a general who led a coup attempt in 1972 were free to leave the country following their release from detention.

Fatima Oufkir, her six children and a cousin were freed last March after 18 years in custody.

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

try documents show that 1,414 housing units are planned for the Golan by the end of 1992, with construction to begin "in the coming days."

More than 10,000 Israelis have moved there, and the new plan would increase that figure by 50 per cent, the television said.

Mr. Sharon, who has also pursued an aggressive building campaign in the occupied territories since Mr. Baker began his push for peace conference last spring, has vowed to double the population of the Heights.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Lois et les Seigneurs
18:30 Niggy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Circus
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:00 Beyond West world
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week: "Dance"

PRAYER TIMES

04:24 Fajr
05:47 (Sunrise) Duha
11:28 Dhahir
14:23 Asr
16:27 Maghrib
18:16 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
627285.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 642990.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel.
628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
773131.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
772611.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel.
627981, 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811285.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 623824 and 644522.
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675991.

WEATHER

Reliefs supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and dusty and
a drop in temperatures is expected.
Winds will be northwesterly moderate.
In Aqaba, winds will be northerly
moderate to fresh and seas calm.

Amman 16/16
Aqaba 21/33
Dumana 17/27
Jordan Valley 21/33

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman
29, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings:
Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 20 per

cont.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Basim Qaddoumi 646024
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyan 620115
Dr. Adnan Zughair 898140
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidat 736123
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 718336
Al Aqsa pharmacy 637055
Nairooth pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 646485
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsel pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Masi Barqawi (—)
Al Shams pharmacy (985328)
ZARQA:
Dr. Farah Agha (—)

Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 892228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630521
Hotel Complaints 603800
Prison Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Oceania Centre 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalil Maternity, J. Amn 642316
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mafes, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Swedish 689151
Shamsel Hospital 845845
University Hospital 6672719
Al-Hadi, Abdull 6612757
Al-Hadi, Abdull 6614646
Jiffar, J. Amman 771093
Al-Basir, J. Amman 7811126
Army, Marfa 8916175
Queen Alia Hospital 6024090
Amal Hospital 674135

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal
Jordanian (RJ) Information depart-
ment at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (06)532005, where it
should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

09:00 New Delhi (RJ)
09:15 Riyadh (RJ)
09:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Dhahran (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Colombo (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Larana (RJ)
10:30 London (RJ)
10:40 Cairo (RJ)
10:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
11:15 Bangkok, Singapore (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
12:00 Beirut, Doha (RJ)
12:15 Cairo (RJ)
12:30 Larana (RJ)
12:45 Amsterdam (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
06:15 Beirut (RJ)
07:15 Aqaba (RJ)
07:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
11:00 London (RJ)
11:15 Larana (RJ)
11:30 Cairo (RJ)
11:40 Beirut, Doha (RJ)
11:50 Khash, Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
12:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upsetter price in lbs per kg

Apple 520 / 450
Banana 520 / 500
Banana (Mekawun) 520 / 500
Cabbage 170 / 120
Carrot 250 / 200
Cauliflower (large) 120 / 100
Cauliflower (small) 120 / 100
Eggplant 220 / 180
Garlic 500 / 800
Grape 500 / 800
Lemon 500 / 400
Lemon (large) 250 / 200
Mango (large) 220 / 200
Mango (small) 220 / 200
Onion 500 / 500
Peanut (oil) 220 / 180
Pepper (red) 400 / 350
Potato 500 / 250
Sage 600 / 500
Spinach 220 / 180
Sweet onion 220 / 200
Tomato 220 / 200
Watermelon 150 / 40

Ministry making inroads in promoting Jordan's touristic sites in Italy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Federation of Italian Tourist and Travel Offices will hold their annual meeting in Amman early in April 1992 and nearly 1,000 delegates are expected to attend the meeting, according to Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al Kabarti.

The minister, who returned to Amman Tuesday evening after a five-day visit to Italy, said that he had made the announcement to a press conference in Rome following a series of meetings with the concerned parties.

As well as the 1,000 delegates, nearly 80 Italian journalists will be present to cover the conference in Amman, the minister said. During his stay in Italy, the minister stood in for Her Majesty Queen Noor in inaugurating "Jordan's week," which included



Abdul Karim Al Kabarti

seminars, workshops and other activities organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for the Italian tourist offices and travel agents to orient them on

attractions in Jordan.

According to Mr. Kabarti, agreement was reached with the Italians that in cooperation with the concerned Jordanian departments and tourist offices, a programme for a visit to Jordan in May 1992 will be organised for 1,000 Italian tourists.

Mr. Kabarti said the Italian tourists will be visiting a number of desert castles and other archaeological sites and places of interest within a programme to be worked out in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

Mr. Kabarti, who accompanied the Queen on her visit to Italy, chaired a meeting jointly attended by representatives of Alitalia and Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier, to

work out an agreement designed to facilitate Italian tourists' travel to Jordan and the contributions of the two airlines to a campaign designed to market Jordan in Italy.

Queen Noor returned from a trip to Italy on Oct. 20 at the end of a two-day working visit during which she inaugurated a campaign organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to promote tourism in Jordan.

The ministry's campaign to attract tourists to Jordan follows a period of stagnant tourist activity in the Kingdom and a sharp decline in visits due to the Gulf crisis. The ministry is now holding three workshops for Italian tour operators and a number of Jordanian handicraft and mosaic exhibits in a bid to stimulate the tourism industry.

Ceremony marks United Nations Day, De Cuellar praises organisation's efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ceremony will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman Thursday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in observance of United Nations Day.

The ceremony is being organised by the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), which has its temporary regional office in Amman.

On the occasion of United Nations Day, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar gave a speech in which he praised the international body.

Following is the text of the speech, which was released by the ESCWA office in Amman:

"As we observe United Nations Day this year, we see new horizons opening for humanity's political advance. We have ample cause for gratification. The role of our organisation is no longer peripheral and its purpose no longer questioned. It has proved both its

relevance and its capability. It has become the rallying point for his effort to establish a new order of peace and justice that would promote human rights and eradicate poverty and other social plagues.

"At the moment, we stand at a delicate point in the search for such an order. While an old axis of conflict has disappeared, a volatile situation raises new questions pertaining to stability. While our search for comprehensive peace has been unshackled from old habits of thought, it is in danger of being distracted by new eruptions of hate and prejudice. We do not, therefore, celebrate the day in a state of euphoria. We do not forget the suffering and violence that continue to blot the human scene.

"I appeal to the leaders of peoples to ensure that freedoms recently gained and energies newly released are de-

voted to ends most conducive to human welfare. In making this appeal, I ask that we hark back to the principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations. Indeed, today the mandate of the organisation gains further scope and comes into sharper focus than it ever did before.

"As I am sending out this message when my term of office draws to its close, I want to express my warmest thanks to all who participated in, or contributed to, the great projects of peace during the last ten years. They can be rightly proud that many of these tasks have achieved their aim. Others also promise to bear fruit. Still others no doubt will follow in future. All these undertakings restore and reinforce the sense of mission with which the organisation was imbued at the time of its creation. This is the most precious resource of the United Nations.

Pharmaceutical society organising seminars to promote goods

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Pharmaceutical Academic Society (JPAS) is organising three seminars in the coming few months to discuss matters related to the marketing of Jordanian medicines and the maintenance of pharmaceutical equipment, according to society President Eid Abu Dalbooh.

Through these seminars, the society aims to lay stress on the requirements of the modern pharmaceutical industry, specifications and laws governing this industry in Jordan and abroad and means of coping with the developments in the industry in the developed world.

Mr. Abu Dalbooh was speaking at a seminar called to discuss cooperation among Jordanian pharmaceutical industries and local producers of materials for packaging medicine.

Addressing the meeting held earlier this week, Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalid Abu Hassan said that Jordan now has seven pharmaceutical industrial firms, five of which produce human medicines and two veterinary products.

The seven firms have a total capital of JD 18.6 million and together employ 2,218 workers and specialists, Mr. Abu Hassan said. He added that the products of these firms cover nearly 40 per cent of the country's needs.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that Jordanian pharmaceutical products are marketed in 32 countries around the world and earn the country some JD40 million, up from JD30 million in 1989.

The JPAS was established in Jordan in 1990 to help promote the pharmaceutical industry of the country.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King visits army HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Wednesday visited the Army General Command where he was received by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants, the inspector general and the acting Royal Air Force commander. King Hussein met with Gen. Abu Taleb and discussed with him issues of concern to the Armed Forces. King Hussein also visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and was received by PSD Director Maj. Gen. Fadel Ali Fuheid. King Hussein was accompanied on both visits by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary.

Symposium begins today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society of Surgeons Thursday will open a two-day symposium to review 30 working papers dealing with a host of medical topics. A total of 500 specialists and surgeons will be taking part in the meeting. Dr. Abdullah Al Bashir, the Society's president, told a press conference in Amman Wednesday that the meeting offers a chance for an exchange of views and expertise among the delegates. He said that the society was now making arrangements for an international conference in Amman in the coming year.

King praises RSCN for efforts in safeguarding and protecting environment

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday paid tribute to the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) and its staff for their strenuous efforts aimed at providing protection to the environment in Jordan.

The achievements of the RSCN over the past 25 years deserves recognition and appreciation because the society has succeeded in placing Jordan in an advanced position among countries and organisations concerned for protection of man through the protection of the environment, the King said at a ceremony held at the Royal Cultural Centre in observance of RSCN's silver jubilee.

Following are major excerpts of the King's address at the ceremony:

"I seize this opportunity to offer in my name and on behalf of the Jordanian people greetings to the RSCN in which we take deep pride for its achievements over the past 25 years.

"Jordan has declared that it was adopting the International Strategy for the Conservation of Nature, a strategy prepared by a group of international organisations involving the efforts of thousands of experts from around the world. These experts have succeeded in defining the dangers and perils threatening the earth's environment and have proposed certain plans and programmes to help man avoid danger and deal with environmental hazards.

"Jordan was one of 33 countries which declared total commitment to the strategy and which embarked on national plans designed to conform to this strategy. A group of Jordanian scientists and experts have addressed themselves to this task in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and with financing from the Jordanian government and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).



His Majesty King Hussein praises the work of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature

Wednesday during a ceremony celebrating the organization's silver jubilee (Petra photo)

"I am delighted to join the RSCN today to celebrate together the society's silver jubilee and to declare that the society has finalised a national plan for the conservation of nature which indeed provides protection to mankind.

"I can best describe the RSCN's achievement as a noble and sincere effort which proves the good quality of work which voluntary associations can achieve with backing from the state and which also proves great public concern for environmental issues and the society's efforts.

"It is enough to note that the RSCN is the only Arab organisation of its type taking charge of the task of setting up and managing wildlife reserves on a purely voluntary basis. It is the only society in the Arab World which publishes a specialised gazette dealing with matters related to the conservation of nature.

"We ought to emphasise here that the national plan for the conservation of nature is based on the international strategy in this concern and constitutes a general framework for action, defining man's activities versus nature and providing guidelines for a sustainable economic and social

development which can benefit the nation in years to come. "What the RSCN has achieved over the past 25 years deserves from me and my people greetings and appreciation. With its strenuous efforts marked with unique zeal, the society has succeeded in placing Jordan in an advanced position among countries and organisations concerned with the conservation of nature and the protection of mankind from dangers threatening the human environment.

"We voice our appreciation of the society's work and hope that the jubilee celebration would mark the beginning of renewed commitment for the implementation of the national strategy until our aspired goals have been achieved.

"I am pleased here to express my appreciation of and pride in the work in this field carried out by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Mr. Ahmad Obaidat, Dr. Ali Abanda, Dr. Abdullah Tougan and other scientists and experts who were instrumental in enabling Jordan to shoulder its important and heavy task under the present crucial stage, contributing to-

wards the protection of the planet earth by providing protection to the environment in Jordan and working at the national, regional and international levels. I wish them all continued success in their endeavours."

Acting for King Hussein, Queen Noor Tuesday opened the Dana Wildlife Reserve in the Tafilah Governorate which was part of the society's jubilee celebrations. RSCN President Anis Muasher said that the Dana Reserve is one of 12 wildlife reserves being operated in the Kingdom in cooperation with the IUCN.

Among those addressing the ceremony were Minister of Agriculture Subhi Al Qasem, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razak Tubeishat and Mr. Muasher.

Towards the end of the ceremony, King Hussein presented the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order to the IUCN in recognition of its assistance to national efforts.

Her Majesty Queen Noor along with the speaker of the Senate and other officials and cabinet members attended the ceremony.



A TASTY CELEBRATION — The International Community School held its annual International Food Fair last week in which many different personalities and national foods were represented. A parade of children in national costumes began the festivities. The children, beautifully dressed, marched to the music of the Jordanian Armed Forces. Each children received a prize for their performance. The Royal Jordanian Folk Dancing Group, another participant in the festivities, performed while crowds walked around at the front of the school. Also performing was the school choir, who twice held performances which included music ranging from modern to classical songs. A grand raffle concluded the day's proceedings and prizes ranged from items as diverse as paperweights made from pieces of the Berlin Wall to airline tickets. The event, officials said, is designed to epitomise the international flavor of the school, reminding Jordanians that friendship between nations puts children on the right path to a better future.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Art exhibition by Abdul Rauf Shamoun, Khalid Kharis and Mohammed Hameed Alabbash at Abdul Hameed Shamoun Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 8 p.m.)
- ☆ Art exhibition by Fadia Jafar Nabulsi at the British Council.
- ☆ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Sina Ata at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition entitled "Sheikh Ibrahim — Johann Ludwig Borchardt (1784-1917)" at the reception hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists Ghassan Abu Lahan, Hadi Bassem, Abir Abu Judeh and Samia Hindi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition of water colour paintings by Australian artist Jennifer Bowker at Alfa Art Gallery (opening ceremony at 6:30 p.m.).

FILM

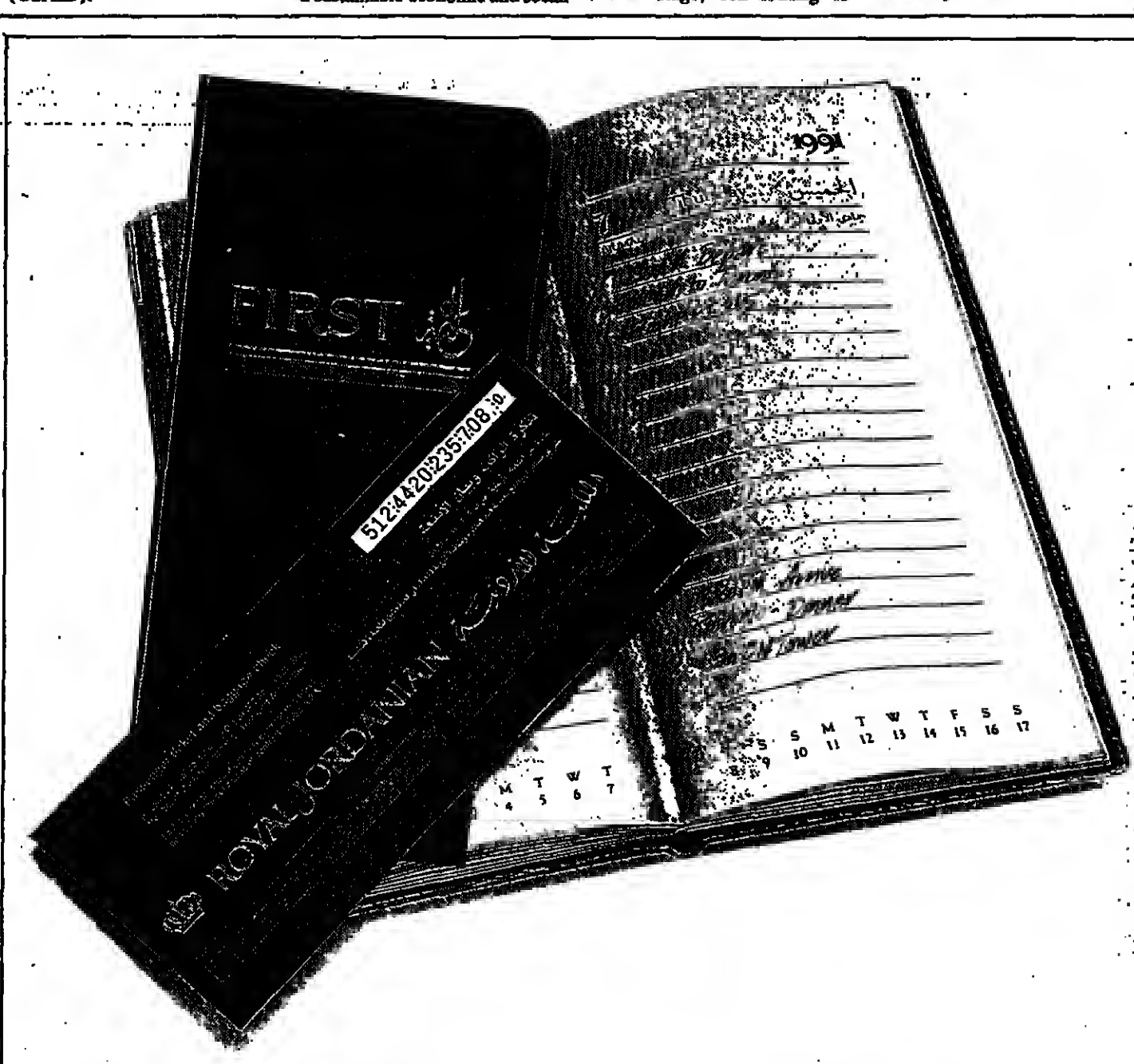
- ☆ Feature film entitled "Meet John Doe" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

Speaker of European Parliament to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The speaker of the European Parliament, Enrique Barón Crespo, is due in Amman on Oct. 30 a two-day visit to Jordan for meetings with government officials and Jordanian parliamentarians.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Mr. Barón Crespo will discuss the general situation in the Middle East, the peace process and a number of questions of common concern as well as means of bolstering cooperation in parliamentary affairs between the European Parliament and the Lower and Upper houses of Parliament in Jordan.

The visit comes on the heels of a tour last month by a European Parliamentary delegation.



TORONTO. SAME DAY

Now, Royal Jordanian flies direct from Amman to Toronto.

On November 7th, Royal Jordanian adds another Maple leaf to its existing Canadian operation — Montreal.

Fly every Thursday on our luxurious TriStar from Amman to Toronto, arriving the same evening to pursue your planned activities.

Royal Jordanian, one of the most dynamic airlines is always adding new destinations to its network for your comfort and convenience.

ROYAL JORDANIAN الملكية الأردنية

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جوردان تيمز جريدة سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Fishing in murky waters

THE TEHRAN conference in support of Palestinians may have included all the slogans which fired the national sentiments of the Arab peoples throughout the decades since Israel's occupation of Palestine. The emotions it invokes in the hearts and souls of many Arabs are not to be underestimated or ignored by anyone. One needs only to look at how Palestinians and Jordanians reacted to national slogans that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invoked during the Gulf crisis and the ensuing war to realise that emotions still run high in the Middle East.

But one cannot also ignore the questions that gnaw at the minds of many Arabs as they watch the "fighters" gather to protest the first ray of hope for a peaceful end of the Palestinian problem. Most important among these questions is where were all these fighters when Iraq was being attacked by every country in the world? Why do these "fighters" only appear to issue threats on occasions that suit them and when it serves their interests? Iran has now shown us that it can gather many of the political forces in the region if and when it wants to carry the slogans of Palestine and regionalism but it has also shown us how not to lift a finger to even reject the merciless bombardment of Iraqi towns during the Gulf war. Where were Iran's strong feelings against the humiliation of the peoples of this region when Iraq was being destroyed? We did not see any conferences calling for an end to the allied attacks on Iraq at that time. In fact Tehran not just kept mum about what was taking place across its borders; it also kept Iraqi aircraft which sought asylum in Iran. We talk of double standards, dual approaches and all those fancy political terms that show us how Western politicians politick when their interests are threatened but yet we fail to see how we also prescribe different medicines for the same ailment when we deal with the issues that touch us. One cannot help but feel that the underlying reality of this public gathering is that it can only serve those politicians who want to cash in on the possibility of the peace conference's failure. The fact that the Tehran gathering's resolutions included one that promises to support the obstruction of the Madrid conference can only indicate that the conference have no inkling of what the Palestinians most need in way of support to attain their national rights, namely a peaceful end to the occupation of their homeland. The Palestinians do not want to continue to be monopolised by politicians who preach armed struggle in their rhetoric and fail to act in practical terms. The Palestinians and Arabs at large now want to see courageous acts where those who talk are strong enough to try and deliver. The would be peace makers in the region have worked endlessly to bring this conference to life. They have had the courage to publicly appeal and work for a just and lasting peace in the region. Their task is even more courageous precisely because of all the threats targeted at them by some participants in the Tehran conference. To the background of threats against their lives, they still want to prove that when one sets his mind on achieving something, one has to be ready to work on that goal and not only register empty political gains. At the expense of the people who are most concerned with the outcome of the Madrid conference and, lest any one should forget, they are the Palestinians.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily drew attention Wednesday to Israel's deceitful claims that it is confronting all by itself the many Arab countries and to its leaders begging for support many to its unjust cause. The paper said Israel, after being pressured by the international community to withdraw from Arab lands and respect international legitimacy, has resorted to its old political ploy and manoeuvres, hoping to deceive the world. The paper said that the Arabs are going to the peace conference for the sole purpose of regaining their own lawful rights and lands, occupied by Israel since 1967, and they are not afraid of the discussions with the Israelis. The Arabs are going to the conference not armed with military power, but with the right to the usurped lands and backed by the United Nations and the international legitimacy, the paper said. It said that the coming confrontation at the negotiating table will not be solely between the Arabs and Israel, but rather between the whole world, including the United States and Israel, which has continued for so long against international laws. If the Arabs, the United States and the world community at large were not successful in implementing the international legitimacy and the U.N. resolutions at the conference, it would not mean that Israel was stronger than all these forces put together, but largely due to failure on the part of the United States to force its ally to accept the will of the international community which had earlier been imposed on Iraq by force, the paper pointed out. The paper said that by presenting itself as a poor party confronting a multitude of Arab countries at the negotiating table, Israel can by no means win the support of the world and neither can it expect the Arabs to raise the white flag and surrender.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday commented on a study conducted by the Ministry of Social Development revealing that an average 33 per cent of the Jordanian people live under the poverty line and that one of the main reasons behind the abject poverty for some of these families is the big number of family members. Faded Al Faneh said that one way for dealing with the question of poverty in Jordan in the long run is to spread education and awareness in family-planning matters. He said that Jordanian families should be made to understand that there is no need for large families whose members, the innocent children, would live a miserable life, deprived of the means to survive. The writer said in the short term, the government should spend JD30 million, as suggested by the ministry's study, in order to provide sustenance to the needy families living in abject poverty. Spending JD30 million annually to save the lives of at least 20,000 families in Jordan, the writer added, is much more important than allocating JD 45 million to raise the salaries of the civil servants and government employees.

Reflections

Populism — the bane of democracy (II)

A few days after the present Cabinet was sworn in, a delegation of tomato farmers descended upon the Parliament to press their demands for a hike in the prices paid for their produce by the government-owned tomato paste factory. The Cabinet, which was attending a regular parliamentary session at the time, wasted no time in heeding the calls of the citizenry. Right then and there, in the stately halls of the National Assembly, the government magnanimously granted the farmers their wish, earning both the gratitude of the tomato farmers and the admiration of all those who witnessed reactive politics in motion. Instant relief from economic discomfiture, followed by instant gratification. Presto, populism was born.

Of course, at the time no one attached such an historic significance to the "tomato incident." After all, such capricious government intervention in the mechanics of the marketplace could hardly be considered a deviation from existing norms. And, at any rate, a new government is surely entitled to a taste of raw executive powers. It is only with the aid of perfect hindsight vision and after populism had already become the hallmark of this government, that the tomato incident can be recognised as the first salvo of the populist gunnery.

By sheer historical coincidence, the issue that marked the birth of Jordanian populism turned out to be the same as that which triggered the original populist movement of the late 19th century, namely farmers' demands for higher agricultural prices. The American People's Party, which made its national debut in the summer of 1891 (note the date, please), sought to amplify the grievances of farmers by attributing the fall in prices to all sorts of misperceived evils while ignoring the real causes (e.g. increasing production made possible by the advent of new machinery).

Exactly a century later, the Jordanian government intervenes selectively and haphazardly in the marketplace to prop up tomato prices. Had it taken a cursory glance beyond the temporary gratitude of tomato farmers, it would have acted in a different manner.

A sound agricultural policy aims, at a minimum, to increase the efficiency of production by encouraging the planting of high margin crops and the expansion of the food processing industry in order to maximise the creation of value in the agricultural sector as a whole. By acquiescing to demands for higher prices (subsidised by the shallow pockets of tax payers and consumers), the government effectively reduces the incentives to shift out of low margin crops. It also signals the wrong message to those farmers who sensibly planted a high value crop and to any prospective investor who might be entertaining a food processing venture. After all, why would anyone in his right mind invest in a sector where financial risks are compounded, and business decisions distorted, by arbitrary government intervention. The net effect of the government's action is to perpetuate poor agricultural earnings, low or non-existent returns on public investments in agriculture, and a variety of expensive subsidies. Sooner or later, the day will come when no amount of taxes or foreign aid can provide enough artificial income to keep everyone alive.

What big nasty consequences does a tiny populist gesture entail! If you add all the nasty consequences of all the populist decisions taken to this date, you may see why the live now, pay later philosophy of the populists is a recipe for disaster. Worst of all, populism is a vicious circle in the making. Populism begets lower standards of living which, in turn, breed populist politicians. If not broken quickly, this vicious circle may not be stopped in the future except by slaughtering the goose that laid the rotten egg: democracy.

I started the comparison between the old and the new populism by stating that any similarities are purely coincidental. I want to believe this. Not only because history books are an unlikely source of inspiration to politicians, but also because I'd hate to think that a century is the span of time that separates our politicians from modern thinking.

In fact, I do believe that populism is a mere passing phase in our

politics. As people and politicians come to terms with the democratic experiment and are able to cope better with both its constraints and enticements, the day will soon come when a bevy of politicians, who do read the history books, start charting a patient and sensible path for economic and social progress. The day will soon come when politicians start telling the people what they should hear and not what the politicians think the people want to hear. And the day will soon come when people are allowed to explore their full potentials and are cut loose to seek their own path towards self-fulfilment, coddled only by their inner strengths and their faith in the integrity of the system.

Jordan is a small country with big problems. To see it through, we need big ideas and a small overhead. An enlightened government is one which recognises that easy, simple solutions that tackle the symptoms or parts of the problem, are no solutions at all. More often than not, such "solutions" exacerbate the problem. Only drastic and structural reforms can cut intractable problems into smaller, more manageable pieces.

Priorities which are not contradictory or mutually exclusive (e.g. fast industrial growth and environmental protection) must be defined and stoutly defended till mission is accomplished. Fresh new ideas have to be brought into the Cabinet's kitchen to shape policies which are then implemented by sure-footed statesmen with knowledge, experience, and dedication. Transactional management should be replaced by management by objective, and deal-makers substituted by policy-makers. In short, a government that knows where and how to lead the country and will not be distracted by peripheral issues or by the whims of special interest groups.

But, most of all, Jordan needs politicians who are willing to lead the people; politicians who will not hide behind the courage of the Hashemite leadership but will be inspired by it; and politicians who can reach those who wallow in self-pity and are prisoners of their own obsessions and lead them away from themselves and into the sunshine.

Experts fear North Korea, Pakistan the next powers

By Peter James Spielmann
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Iraq's surprising success in secretly building a nuclear weapons programme makes experts fear that other countries could vault into the nuclear club.

Baghdad had the advantage of oil money to finance its \$10 billion nuclear programme and its closed society under President Saddam Hussein kept the programme a secret. U.N. experts say Iraq might have perfected an atom bomb given another 15 months.

Only Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war, which forced it to open its laboratories and military bases to U.N. inspectors, resulted in the discovery of a weapons programme that astonished scientists with its breadth, complexity and advanced stage of development.

Meanwhile, a network of nations have been secretly trading nuclear technology, expertise and materials to overcome their individual shortcomings. Experts worry most about countries where international tensions are chronically high: Pakistan, India, and North Korea, which built up a nuclear industry to counter U.S. nuclear weapons stationed in South Korea.

As for other countries that could surprise the West with advanced atomic and thermonuclear weapons programme, "there are plenty," said Diana Edensword, research analyst for the Wisconsin project on nuclear arms control in Washington.

"The obvious suspects are North Korea, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Pakistan, India, Libya, Taiwan, the Soviet republics, South Korea, Algeria, Israel and Iran," she said.

India set off a nuclear device in 1974, but says its nuclear programme is intended for peaceful purposes. Pakistan is believed to have obtained a tested nuclear device from China.

Ms. Edensword expects to discover that some of the countries are cooperating. "One country develops the trigger mechanism, they trade that with another country that has uranium, someone else provides other parts..."

Ms. Edensword cited Brazil and Iraq, clients of Germany that she said have signed a clandestine nuclear agreement. She said Brazil supplied Iraq with hundreds of tonnes of uranium concentrate known as yellowcake.

"South Africa and Israel is another link," she said. "China has helped Iraq a bit in the past. There are some sales we have documents on, but we are not sure they have gone through."

All those countries deny helping others develop nuclear weapons, despite repeated reports to the country — some by their own former scientists and technicians.

A book published Sunday asserts that Israel has an arsenal of more than 300 nuclear warheads. "The Samson Option" by reporter Seymour Hersh says the Israeli nuclear missile force has been ready for launching three times — most recently during Iraq's missile attacks in the Gulf war.

Michael Brower, director of research of the Union of Concerned Scientists, nominated North Korea and Pakistan as the two countries most likely to cross the nuclear threshold next.

"Pakistan is fairly well understood, but I think we don't know very much about North Korea's programme. They might well surprise us with the extent of their programme," he said in a telephone interview from his Cambridge, Mass. office.

"Other countries have the disadvantage that they don't have Iraq's immense oil revenues, so it's a little hard to imagine that any other country would have such a vast nuclear complex," Mr. Brower said.

Foreign Minister Lee Sang-Ok of South Korea, which has been conducting an escalating campaign to pressure North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions, said earlier this month that the north could build a bomb by 1995.

The technology to build a crude atom bomb is fairly simple. Scientists are more worried about the advancing sophistication, among Third World countries in building components for more thermonuclear weapons.

U.N. weapons experts found the "smoking gun" in Iraq's thermonuclear weapons programme in a Sept. 23 raid in Baghdad.

Captured records contained a reference to production of lithium-6 — "A substance that has only one use, namely use in thermonuclear weapons," said Hans Blix, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Experts now believe Iraq was on a three-track nuclear weapons programme, building not only an atom bomb, but trying to produce a much more powerful H-bomb that uses the atom bomb as a trigger, and using H-bomb technology to enhance atomic explosions.

Enhancement of atomic bomb explosions is easy. Lithium-6 can be converted into tritium in a nuclear reactor. The tritium is then combined with deuterium at the atom bomb's core, greatly boosting the atomic explosion. Iraq could have made an H-bomb by combining lithium 6 and deuterium, or "heavy water," which it imported years ago from France.

Baghdad claims that allied bombing destroyed its deuterium supply. Iraqi officials have shown U.N. inspectors the damaged storage tank and the spot where they say the heavy water drained into the ground.

U.N. inspectors are sceptical of Iraqi claims, and continue to search for hidden deuterium and lithium-6.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is supposed to be monitoring atomic plants around the world and making sure countries that sign the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty are not developing weapons or sharing weapons technology.

IAEA Spokesman David Kyd said the agency, based in Vienna, "has no reason to believe" North Korea has a nuclear weapons programme — or that any other nation does, for that matter.

Israelis hopeful, fearful ahead of peace conference

By Bradley Burston
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israelis hope a historic Middle East peace conference this month heralds the end of decades of Arab siege but fear increased world pressure for concessions. "I want to feel the euphoria of peace, but it just isn't in the air," said Jerusalem fruit vendor Eli Abutbul, 29.

Under intense pressure from U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, Israel agreed Sunday to attend the conference, that opens in Madrid on October 30.

But Mr. Abutbul said: "The closer the conference gets, the more isolated Israel seems to get in this world. Every day that goes by, Baker expects us to give a little more than the day before, and what Baker expects, the whole world expects."

A Tel Aviv housewife, 71-year-old Ella Feller, said:

"I'm worried all these countries the Americans are inviting to the conference will gang up on Israel, and I'm worried that maybe America is not behind Israel so much any more."

"But most of all, I'm worried that if the conference falls apart, there's going to be another war."

Conference co-sponsors Washington and Moscow have invited Israel's Arab neighbours and Palestinians from Israeli-occupied lands. The United Nations, the European Community and North African and Gulf states have been invited as observers.

Israeli peace activists express doubts about the willingness of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's cabinet, the most hawkish in Israel's history, to make peace. The government opposes ceding any of the land occupied since the 1967 Middle East War.

"I don't think this government is capable of doing what will be needed to make peace," said

Gisela Korin, 20, who immigrated to Israel from Argentina 18 months ago.

"I don't think it's worth it to them. They're simply not ready to change the opinions they've held to for so long."

A cabinet minister told colleagues before the vote that the opposition of hardliners had spread an "atmosphere of gloom."

And an official said on Monday: "It would be stupid to expect any Israeli to be 100 per cent at ease."

Israeli columnists say Mr. Shamir seems to share the dour mood.

After promising Mr. Baker on Friday to take a cabinet vote, Mr. Shamir "looked more like a man under demonic compulsion than a man who had just achieved the accomplishment of his life," wrote Yoel Marcus of the Daily Haaretz.

Mr. Shamir has expressed little enthusiasm for the conference,

saying only that he saw no better alternative.

"Israel is (only) one, and we know all the rest are many. Israel is one against all of them," Mr. Shamir said on Monday.

Many Israelis have contrasted the public's mood with the euphoria that accompanied the surprise November 1977 visit to Jerusalem of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. The visit by Mr. Sadat led to the only peace treaty with an Arab state and Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai captured in the 1967 war.

"Just before Sadat came, Israelis were very sceptical about the possibilities for peace with Egypt or anyone else," pollster Hanoch Smith said. "But when he came, the way he came, within a very short time the Israeli public flipped 180 degrees."

But no one foresees cause for elation now. "Assad is no Sadat," read a newspaper headline last week in reference to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

LETTERS

Prove it Mr. Bush

To the Editor:

No matter what the reasons, there seems to be a serious attempt at cleaning the world of its nuclear danger. It is a welcome constructive trend in a world that has, for a long time, been happy with its destructive achievements. It is no doubt a breeze of fresh air in an increasingly suffocating atmosphere. A significant by-product of such a move is the assurance it brings to the inhabitants of this planet that, after all, not all the leaders of this world are as crazy as we thought they were.

Think of George Bush. To render the world a little bit safer, he ordered the destruction of a good number of American nuclear warheads in Europe. He did this with the style of a devoted believer. No conditional reciprocity was demanded of either friends or enemies. Consequently, we, the scared people of the world, took a deep sigh, and felt a lot better as we thought that here is a leader who is genuinely concerned with the safety of this planet, and is doing something about it.

More proofs of leadership's sanity and care came in as Mr. Bush continued to look for hidden areas that harboured dangerous nuclear threats. North and South Korea were spotted nurturing such programmes. Of what we hear, Mr. Bush is pushing hard to make them dismantle their bombs and discontinue their military programmes.

And as Mr. Bush was working so hard to completely destroy the nuclear programmes of Iraq, presumably to make the world a lot safer, up surfaced a book mentioning the presence of some 300 atomic bombs all packed up in Israel. Under the present mood, it is logical to take this matter with the utmost of seriousness, and give it full attention by at least carrying out a prompt and thorough investigation. Nothing is capable of making the world a dangerous place to live in more than having so many nuclear bombs in a place that is so small, so potentially volcanic, so full of extremists and fanatics, and in the middle of the energy depot of the world.

If George Bush is really serious about making the world a safer place to live in, Israel is the place he should focus on now. With this amount of concentrated destructive potential, it is the most dangerous, and the most threatening place in the world.

If Mr. Bush means business, he has now a very good chance to prove it.

Dr. Abdul Rahim Malkas,
P.O. Box 964,
Amman.

'Blind' tourism

To the Editor:

UNDER the heading "Promoting Tourism" your excellent newspaper published an interesting letter on Saturday, Oct. 10.

This prompts me, on my second visit to your beautiful country as an independent traveller, to record comments which may be of help to your Department of Tourism.

— Tourist information:

Very difficult to obtain in your airline offices overseas, and no up-to-date information is available on hotel/resthouse prices. The Tourist Office of Queen Alia Airport is never open; the office in Madaba contains nothing, not even a wall map; the new Petra Visitors Centre contains nothing other than posters depicting the travels of the Anglo-Swiss explorer Burckhardt. None of the many hotels/resthouses at which we have stayed contain any leaflets or brochures with information on local attractions.

— Road travel

Outside main centres this is easy and relaxed by hire car. Available road maps, however, seem poor and out-of-date. Our main difficulties lay in finding the more remote archaeological sites which were not signposted after leaving a main road, or signposted only in Arabic. Of more concern were those occasions on which we were forced to turn back by police or military on roads which had no signs indicating prohibited areas. Our most recent adventure was from Karak Resthouse advised us that a permit would be required, and was able to assist us in obtaining this through the tourist police and military headquarters. This was successful in getting us through, but did not prevent police posts en route doing a complete search of our luggage — four times en route — nor the confiscation of two reels of holiday snapshots. Notices prohibiting photography are seldom prominently displayed, and the area to which they refer is exceedingly vague. Could not car hire firms be compelled to give their customers a list of areas where travel is prohibited, or for which permits may be necessary?

Despite the foregoing comments we never cease to be impressed by the friendly and courteous nature of the people we have encountered. It would seem, however, that tourism for the independent traveller in Jordan has a long way to go. No doubt group travellers are well provided for with self-contained information packs and guides.

In conclusion I should mention that driving into or out of Amman is a nightmare — road signs in English are few and not continuous; street names are difficult to spot and may not agree with the road map.

P. M. Orange,
Sylvana,
Rock Road,
Starrington,
W. Sussex RH 20 3 AF,
England.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Jennifer Bowker finds her identity in art

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — What do biological technology and art have

in common? Jennifer Bowker, who studied biological technology and whose first art exhibition is currently on display at the Alia Art Gal-

lery near the First Circle.

The artist, who has been studying art only since Oct. 1990, says that having studied biological technology and having worked as an electron microscopist in a research unit in virology, genetics and biochemistry made her more precise in art.

"Science teaches organisation," Ms. Bowker said. "Now if I'm working on still life I know how to arrange the subjects to get the effect I want," she said.

The exhibition includes a wide selection of art techniques that are all executed in watercolour. For example, there are paintings of landscapes "mostly of the Wadi Al Seer area" and some paintings showing facial expressions and human figures, as well as close-up, detailed representations of flowers in vases.

Ms. Bowker said that working with water colours was very interesting, but explained that one had to be very careful to keep the areas that should remain light in colour unpainted. She added that once a region is darkened it becomes impossible to lighten it again. "You must plan ahead when using water-colours," Ms. Bowker said.

"I do that by painting each composition one section at a

time, much like a jigsaw puzzle."

There are some exceptions though, Ms. Bowker said. "While painting some cut

daisies, the flowers began to wilt visibly during the time I spent drawing them. So I had to rush and paint the flowers before doing anything about

the background."

Many of the paintings include representations of jewellery items made of silver. "I like how the silver items pick up and capture the colour of their surroundings," Ms. Bowker said. "If there is a scarf, beneath a silver bracelet the reflections of the scarf's colours on the angles of the bracelet make the items very interesting to paint," she said, adding that with detailed items she first makes a complete pencil drawing before painting them.

When it comes to colour choice, Ms. Bowker makes her own selections and combinations so that the colours are bright yet complementary to each other. Exception are landscape scenes which she paints in their natural colours.

Ms. Bowker emphasised the fact that she is still an art student who has done some handwork and dressmaking but who has not painted anything before the beginning of this year.

"Until this year I had not painted anything, but with the help of my tutor, Aziz Ammoura, I have been able to do this art work. Mr. Ammoura approaches art in such a way as to bring out things in you that you did not know about," Ms. Bowker said.

According to Ms. Bowker, art



Marguerites by the Australian artist



Still life with silver, a watercolour painting currently on display at the Alia Art Gallery.



Self-portrait by Jennifer Bowker

has given her a surprisingly better memory. "When I draw or paint something, I see it more clearly and I remember it well. When I go out early in the morning to draw a landscape scene, I can remember every house in the area and all the stripes around the hills," she said.

As a diplomat's wife, Ms. Bowker explained that she is not allowed to work. "I have travelled with my husband to New Guinea, Syria, Western Samoa, Malaysia, and now I

am in Jordan. I have not been permitted to work in any of these places. Like the majority of women in Australia, I used to work at home. Now that I can not work I feel that my identity has been taken away from me. With art, I can have my own identity, and I can take it wherever I go," she said.

Ms. Bowker's exhibition, which was opened under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath will continue until Oct. 30.

Boomerangs are coming back

By Philippa Neave

NEW YORK — The small curved object rises silently into the clear blue sky. Lying flat, it spins on itself and describes a wide, elegant ellipse in the air. Barnaby Ruhe stands immobile, eyes scanning the sky. Slowly he raises his arm and opens a gloved hand. Like a hawk returning to its master, his boomerang comes to nestle in the palm of his hand with a dull thud.

The crowd in New York's Central Park stands transfixed as the members of the U.S. boomerang team stand in a straight line and simultaneously toss brightly coloured boomerangs into the air. Each one returns without fail to the palm of its owner.

"There is something magic about the boomerang," enthuses 44-year-old Ruhe, the team's captain (his is one of two U.S. teams). "Boomerangs are a way of communing with the sky, it is like dancing a tango with the wind and she's leading. If you think you are in control, the wind will be very happy to make a fool out of you."

Together with other air-horne sports like hang-gliding, kite-flying and frisbee-throwing, boomeranging has experienced a tremendous boost over the past two decades. From the obscure outback of Australia,

where the Aborigines are thought to have discovered the boomerang more than 10,000 years ago, boomeranging has grown into an international sport, spawning clubs in many countries and drawing large crowds to international tournaments.

Ruhe's interest in boomerangs began when he was a small boy. His uncle, Benjamin Ruhe, considered one of the world's experts in boomerangs and currently an honorary consultant at Washington's Air and Space Museum, received boomerangs from all around the world. He took his seven nephews and nieces out on expeditions to test the boomerangs, and Barnaby has been an enthusiast ever since.

He has also become something of a star because of the tricks he performs. His most famous is the "William Tell" stunt, in which he places an apple (occasionally an egg for greater effect) on his head, throws the boomerang and positions himself so that it shatters the apple on its return. "This is the only sport in which the target is yourself," he notes with obvious pride.

"The oldest returning boomerang is about 10,000 years old, but boomerangs could be older — wooden objects rot and vanish," explained Benjamin Ruhe in an

interview. "The boomerang is a very complex object. First there is the non-returning boomerang that is like the throwing stick. This was used for hunting in many parts of the world. The oldest evidence of this is in 20,000-year-old cave paintings in Australia." Other ancient boomerangs have been found in the Egyptian Pharaoh King Tutankhamen's tomb, in peat bogs in Ireland and in Florida marshes; one found in a cave in Poland was estimated to be 23,000 years old.

More sophisticated than aeroplanes

Aerospace engineers and scientists have been working for years on the study of the boomerang, he adds. "One Dutch physicist, Dr. Felix Hess, has written a 550-page thesis on the boomerang and its properties." Barnaby Ruhe, who owns hundreds of them, has also studied and practiced for years. "It takes seven aerodynamic principles. It is more sophisticated than an airplane because of its gyroscopic stability and precision. In that respect it is more like a helicopter."

Except that helicopters don't come back on their own. To enable it to return, a boomerang must be fashioned like an aircraft wing bent at an angle of 105 degrees at most. At 120 degrees, it will not come back. The surface must be smooth, and many tiny adjustments may be made in the weight and curvature of the underside to achieve different effects: Greater speed, longer flying time, greater distance.

Ruhe, a painter by profession who earned his Ph. D. degree from New York University and teaches at the New York Museum of Modern Art, has been a world champion and has held the world record for boomerang juggling (launching two boomerangs alternately and keeping one in the air at all times). His enthusiasm for the sport, which is infectious, has encouraged countless individuals in various countries to take up the sport. His own team is composed of an unlikely array of individuals, including a computer scientist, a graphic designer and a windmill expert.

Although the first boomer-

ang was undoubtedly a weapon, used by the Aborigines to hunt, Ruhe stresses the philosophical and magical aspects of the sport: "To the Aborigines, the boomerang is a 'sky spirit.'" In the Aborigine language, 'ranga' means spirit. We do tournaments and competitions, but these are a typical Western enterprise; however it does allow us to contemplate the nature of the boomerang. For example, if you are a Sufi (a Muslim mystic) or a whirling dervish, you are spinning around and achieving gyroscopic stability. The same is true of boomerangs. The boomerang is an extension of the body, you throw it and you are really out there, flying until it comes back."

"Anthropologists are always forcing the question of food and labour upon the activities of human beings... Their logic does not include magic, sport and free-for-all fun," he says. The recent surge in popularity of boomeranging no doubt comes from the fact that it is fun and cheap and almost anyone can do it. "Making your own boomerang is part of the fun," says Ruhe, "and anyone can have one for 25 cents." A few years ago, faced with growing demand from people who wanted to have their own boomerang, Ruhe and several friends set up a small company making plastic boomerangs that sell some 10,000 units a year. "There are a lot of bad boomerangs on the market. People would always come up to me and say they had a boomerang once but it would never come back." Using modern technology, the group managed to produce a reliable flyer. In a world of \$200 basketball shoes, the \$6 price tag seems low enough for something that can provide hours and hours of fun.

It seems to appeal to people of all ages and walks of life. "We've got young girls and 80-year-old men out there throwing," says Ruhe. "It only weighs a couple of ounces and you don't need a partner to play, you can just go out there in the fresh air and enjoy yourself."

He makes it sound easy, and it is. Even a neophyte can experience satisfaction after a couple of tries. The trick is to hold the boomer-



In New York's Central Park, international champion Barnaby Ruhe is about to throw.

ang vertically at one end and throw it with a flick of the wrist, rather like throwing a dart. If you are lucky and have put enough power into the throw, the boomerang will soar into the sky, adopt a horizontal position, spin as it flies and come back to you.

The luck comes with the wind. It may change suddenly and carry the boomerang away, push it into the trees or make it drop out of the sky like a stone. "You have to be like a sailor and smell the wind and at the same time, you are at the tiller, directing, making thousands of little adjustments all the time," says Ruhe.

World championships

Earlier this year, Ruhe and his team of five went to Perth, Australia, to compete in the world championships, which included teams from Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, England, Japan, and, of course, Australia. The competition features several events, including "fast catch," a race against the clock. With boomerangs travelling as fast as 130 kilometres-per-hour, the thrower is required to throw and catch five times, as quickly as possible. Also featured is "maximum time aloft" event. The current world record is 1 minute 24 seconds. In "Trick catching," the most spectacular event, throwers catch the boomerang behind their back, or with their feet, lying on the ground.

The previous championship was held in Germany, which has fast become one of the most enthusiastic boomeranging countries in the world. German boomerang tournaments draw up to 500 throwers and crowds of thousands. "In France, there is a real boomerang craze,

they've gone wild, in Switzerland too. The Japanese love it, but their problem is space, there isn't much room to throw," says Ruhe.

True to their innovative spirit, the Germans have emerged as the high-tech masters of boomerang making. Explains Ruhe: "They are using a computer-chip board, called Pazalin. It is made of 30 layers of compressed linen, it is very dense and only 3 millimetres thick — it cuts right through the wind. There are 17-year-old kids designing boomerangs as good if not better than anybody has ever made them."

A state-of-the-art, high-tech boomerang can cost as much as \$200.

Although they stand to pose a real challenge to the American World Cup holders, having performed admirably in the last championships, the Germans still have a flaw, he adds. "The Germans have a very young and dynamic team with the best boomerangs. They are very good and very clever, but we feed on their one weakness: We are having more fun than they are. We are not so serious!"

The Japanese, naturally have also entered the race to produce the super-boomerang. "The boomerang is a sensational engineering instrument, and the Japanese are very good at improving on other people's technology. We expect them to look very good."

Concludes Ruhe: "This is truly a 'new age' sport, it has got ecology written into it — you need to understand and be with nature, the wind, the sun, space — and it is cheap, the airwaves are free! I believe we have the groundswell of a real sport." Maybe a new Olympic event? — World News Link.

Who can understand Le Teenager's Franglais?

By Francois Raitberger
Reuter

PARIS — French teenagers are coining their own Franglais, ignoring the French Academy's stand against a creeping Anglo-Saxon invasion.

Thus, a nice French teenager with "un jogging in the wind" (trendy sweatshirt) is "Cool Et Clean" (OK).

But if his "son sweat" (track-suit top) is out of date, "il a le look destroy" (he is stressed).

French teenagers also love to invert syllables in a slang known as Verlan (backwards). The result is a dyslexic coded language, opaque to all but the initiated.

For teenagers, "pas de blempro" (no problem), "cest good et fun."

But for parents trying to listen in on their endless phone chats, "c'est too much."

"It has become a reflex. It's just faster to talk that way," said 17-year-old Arnaud Chalandon.

It is also a teenagers' privilege. Woe to adults aping them.

"It just makes us laugh when they try to speak like us," Chalandon said.

"Teenagers have two languages: Normal French at school and home, and their own tongue among themselves," says Paris teacher Elisabeth Borrel.

For years, French authorities have been trying to stamp out Franglais. The broadcasting watchdog has banned the use of English in television commercials.

In official reports, English financial words must be replaced by French equivalents.

The French Academy, prestigious guardian of French language and literary tradition, tries to combat Franglais either by finding French equivalents or by Frenchifying intruders.

It has had to accept hun-

dreds of untranslatable English words such as le cowboy, la cover-girl, le blue-jean and le sandwich.

But le ferry-boat has become le transbordeur, le walkman is now le baladeur, and a squatter was officially turned into un squatteur.

The academy, however, still cannot stop teenagers wearing "des shoes" or being "dead," meaning slightly tired.

Some expand Franglais vocabulary without even knowing it.

"C'est strange," said 15-year-old Gaelle Roux. She was surprised when told it was not French.

Worse, teenagers are giving Franglais a new twist by anglicising French words or faking English ones.

Snowed under with homework, they are "debordered." Stranded in a traffic jam, they are "bloqued." An "in" item used to be "dans le vent." Nowadays it is "in the wind."

"Les inconnus" (the unknown), the current stars of French television entertainment, have provided ammunition by peppering sketches with "cest good. C'est overgood. C'est overgrand."

Drugs and music, where Anglo-Saxon influence prevails and adult meddling is unwelcome, are fertile fields for Franglais.

Youths don't smoke hashish, "ils fument du shit." Addicts don't inject themselves, "ils se shootent." Drugs, anyway "cest no future."

The 50 most popular tunes of the moment, "du rock," "du pop" or "du heavy," are "les top 50 au hit parade." The disc-jockey is a DJ and a compact disc is a CD, but they are pronounced the French way — day-jee and say-day.

But teenagers say there is one major area of life where Franglais has no place — Love. There, mon amour, it's all French.



The magic worked. It is back! and Barnaby Ruhe impresses his public with a tricky catch.

Speedies vs. slowies

By Maha Addasi

There are two types of drivers around us. The "speedies" who honk at people to go faster at any time and all the time, and those who respect every road sign and every speed limit. The latter are the slow drivers of the society, experimented on by the former.

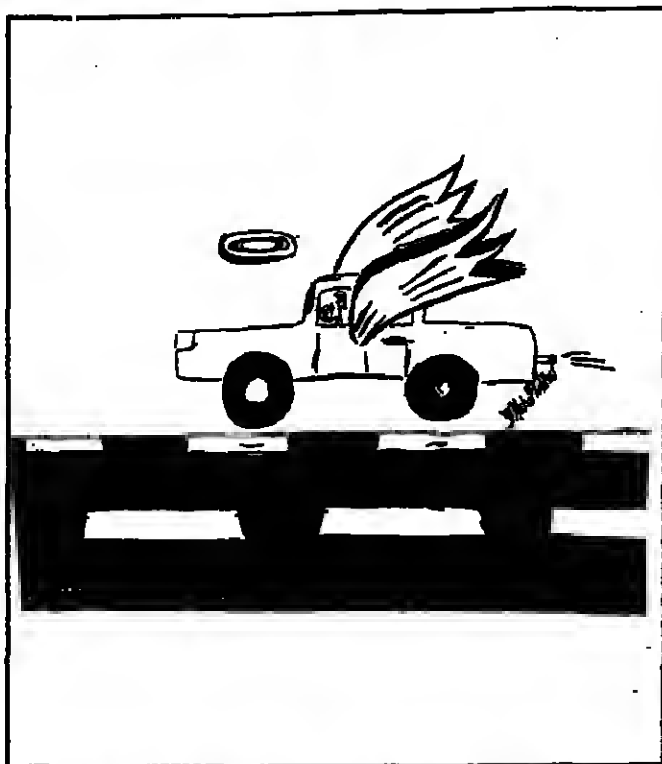
So you get the speedies flashing the headlights at the people in the fast lane because they want them to go faster. The normal reaction is that the slow drivers move over to the next lane. Now, if the slow drivers do not do as anticipated and do not move to the next lane, then the speedies overtake them from the right hand side and give them some obscene "hand signs" accompanied by words that "support" the slow driver's "obscene" gestures.

What such an event proves is that the speedies on the road do not have any patience. They all want to go places instantaneously, and can barely tolerate standing at traffic lights. Well, since they can not avoid stopping, they all want to be in the front row. That is why we end up with eight cars squeezed in the front row, their drivers thinking that if they stood as far back as the second row, they would be trapped for yet another cycle of the traffic lights. When it comes to driving every speedie's time becomes precious and they apply the same policy for the circles as they do for the traffic lights. They want to be first. Consequently there is a continuous rush-hour on all the roads.

But the rush-hour atmosphere is the least of the speedies' concerns. What affects them is how the slow drivers get back at them, because suddenly, these "slowies" want to experiment too. So they stop at the traffic lights and find that it is the perfect opportunity to adjust their hairstyles and makeup, or total their bills. Of course they do not budge even if the light turns green. They have all the time in the world and what is one more traffic light to them?

This is not what throws the speedies into a teeth-clenching rage. What does, is the person in front of them who flashes the "right" lights and proceeds to turn "left."

With "Stop" signs, the speedies and the slowies are even.



If the slow movers stop, the speedies stop one hairsbreadth behind them. If the speedies ignore the stop light, the moving slowies, whose turn it is to move, would run into them in the middle of the cross-roads.

I was going to suggest that since traffic rules are not followed because people reverse on the highways and do not get fined, and since people are getting fined because they are driving a couple of kilometres above the speed limit, traffic laws be eliminated altogether.

But then again, I can not picture life on the roads without rules. Especially that I have slow moving tendencies.

My last day

By E. Yaghi

A chill hung in the air, forecasting winter. The sky spread out under an umbrella of grey and black puddles of rain dotted sidewalks and streets. Pebbles of water ran off red, white and tan cars while exhausts pumped their toxic wastes into the morning mist the day before my last day in America.

Before me, cars raced back and forth to their hectic destinations and trees shed their leaves in deep gold, berry red and brown hues. A carpet of dry leaves lay on the ground and a soft wind swayed the baring branches as they reached out in search for the autumn sun.

"I don't belong here anymore," I thought. "May time's expired and now I belong to the land of my destination—Jordan." Everything seemed unreal as these thoughts shot through my mind. I felt the stage was set for another play and I, the actor, designated for a different scene.

My last night in America was cool. Stars twinkled in the sky, reassuring me of their permanence and peace. Soon I would have to leave my children in the U.S., say good-bye and concentrate on my Jordanian life, leaving my American life behind. On the day of my departure, some of my children and I packed ourselves into a burgandy station wagon loaded with soda, food and high spirits. Certainly I couldn't look forward to leaving them, but instead with resignation, accepted my fate, the fate that God prepared for me. All along the way, I sat in the back seat between two of my sons while a third son, the elected driver, sat in the front with his wife and infant son.

Mountains, topped with green, yellow and red trees appeared before us and their pine smell filled the gray day. On the side of the highway, green grass abounded. My last day was fresh, cool and invigorating. I took a long last look at the beautiful lush scenery portrayed in front of me and spent last precious moments with children I might not see again for some time to come.

By nightfall, we approach New York City. Traffic was congested and high buildings and bridges displayed their sparkling lights like diamonds set against the black satin of

the night.

My driver son fought to keep his patience against endless toll booths and weekend drivers and headed on for JFK Airport nourishing himself on cold soda and crunchy cookies. At last we arrived near the port of departure and loaded my bags on a luggage cart and towed them to the terminal. People from all over the world swarmed the airport streets and hurried on to their own destinations. A few times my younger son hit a crack in the street and dumped all the luggage on the ground which we quickly restacked again.

Finally we piled the suitcases on scales at the Royal Jordanian terminal and luggage free, set off for the departure gate. Time then passed quite quickly. Borrowed time, stolen time, time that didn't belong to me. With tears in my eyes and a lump in my throat, I hugged my children farewell. How could I ever bear to leave them? But, I remembered the two anxious faces of my younger children I left behind in Jordan. They had been waiting too long. Their need was greater than their older brothers.

With saddened acceptance, I trodded through the departure gate, boarded the hovering Royal Jordanian plane, sat down and looked out of the window. My children had gone and were out of my sight. Instead, giant airplanes, silhouetted against the New York skyline, blinked red lights signalling take off. My plane slowly queued in procession, waiting for its turn to gain speed and burst into flight. I whispered a prayer for my children in American, one for those left behind in Jordan and bade good-bye to the country of my birth.

After a long journey, a weary plane manoeuvred by an excellent and deft pilot, landed at Queen Alia International Airport. I stepped off the plane and heaved a sigh of relief to be able to walk on land once more. Somewhere here, my children awaited me. Somewhere else, far over the Atlantic Ocean, my other children would have to learn to manage without me. Now I have shiny pictures of warm memories to remind me of my time spent in America and I await my fate and future in the land that I have grown to love.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Oct. 24

1948 — Peace of Westphalia ends thirty years war; European nations recognise independence of Netherlands.

1795 — Poland is partitioned by Prussia, Austria and Russia.

1860 — China ratifies treaties with Britain and France.

1909 — Russia and Italy sign agreement to preserve status quo in the Balkans.

1922 — Dail adopts constitution for Irish free state.

1929 — Prices collapse on New York Stock Exchange.

1934 — Mahatma Gandhi withdraws from Indian National Congress.

1945 — United Nations Charter goes into effect as Soviet Union becomes 29th nation to ratify it.

1954 — State of emergency is declared in Pakistan.

1961 — Protests are made at United Nations after Soviet Union explodes largest nuclear bomb ever tested.

1962 — U.S. blockades Cuba.

1964 — Northern Rhodesia, renamed Zambia becomes independent republic.

1967 — Egyptian oil installations in port city of Suez are set ablaze by Israeli artillery fire across Suez Canal.

1975 — Turkey's ambassador to France is fatally shot in Paris by assassins.

1986 — Britain breaks diplomatic relations with Syria after jury convicts Arab man of trying to blow up an Israeli airliner.

1988 — Muslim rebels claim to have seized another provincial capital in Afghanistan.

1989 — Soviet legislature votes overwhelmingly to deny Communist Party its guaranteed majority in Congress of People's Deputies.

1990 — At least 21 people die in India during nationwide strike called by right-wing Hindu party trying to bring down government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

Friday, Oct. 25

1666 — Quadruple alliance is signed between Holland, Brandenburg, Brunswick and Denmark.

1794 — Russia withdraws from war against France.

1854 — Heroic charge of the British Light Brigade near Sevastopol, Russia, during Crimean War.

1874 — Britain annexes Fiji Islands.

1900 — Transvaal is

annexed formally by Britain at Pretoria, South Africa.

1909 — Murder of Japan's Prince Ito by Korean fanatics leads to Japanese dictatorship in Korea.

1936 — Germany and Italy form Rome-Berlin axis.

1938 — Japanese troops take Hankow, and Chinese government establishes itself at Chungking; Libya is declared part of Italy.

1941 — Germany's first offensive against Moscow in World War II fails.

1956 — Egypt, Jordan and Syria form unified military command.

1966 — Indonesia's former Foreign Minister Subandrio is sentenced to death.

1971 — United Nations seats China and expels Nationalist Chinese.

1974 — Foreign ministers of 19 Arab countries meet in Rabat, Morocco, and vote strong support for Palestine Liberation Organisation.

1987 — Indian peacekeeping forces wrest control of most of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, but still face Tamil rebel snipers.

1988 — Israeli troops shoot and wound nine Palestinians in scattered clashes throughout occupied territories.

1989 — Soviet state bank announces ruble will be devalued by nearly 90 per cent for tourists and businessmen.

1990 — Kazakh Republic declares sovereignty from Soviet government and factional fighting threatens to break out in Moldavia.

Saturday, Oct. 26

1524 — Spanish surrender Milan to French.

1814 — British governor-general of India declares war on Gurkhas on Nepal.

1850 — Taiping rebellion in China under Hung Siu-Tsun, who proclaims himself emperor.

1896 — Italian protectorate of Ethiopia is withdrawn by treaty of Addis Ababa.

1911 — Chinese Republic is proclaimed.

1917 — Brazil declares war against Germany in World War I.

1942 — U.S. aircraft carrier Hornet is sunk in Solomon Islands battle in World War II.

1945 — Republic of South Vietnam is proclaimed under Ngo Dinh Diem.

1962 — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev offers to withdraw missiles from Cuba if United States removes bases in Turkey, but is rebuffed.

1975 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat arrives in United States with bid for military and economic aid. He is first Egyptian head of state to visit United States.

1976 — U.N. General Assembly, demonstrating disapproval of apartheid, votes 134,0 to call on member governments to prohibit all "contacts" with the Transkei — first of South African black homelands to secure independence.

1979 — South Korea's President Park Chung-hee is slain in KCIA headquarters.

1987 — Communist Party official in China says peasants soon may be allowed to buy and sell their land rights.

1988 — Israeli warplanes raid guerrilla bases in southern and central Lebanon.

1989 — Nigel Lawson, ex-chancellor of the British treasury and one of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's key advisers, resigns suddenly.

1990 — Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, convicted on drug charges, is sentenced to six months in prison, plus one year probation, and fined \$5,000.

Sunday, Oct. 27

1523 — English expedition to France fails.

1651 — Limerick, Ireland, surrenders to British after lengthy siege.

1676 — Peace of Zarnawa between Poland and Turkey.

1789 — French attempt to invade Ireland fails.

1806 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte occupies Berlin.

1807 — Spain and France agree to conquer Portugal.

1870 — French troops surrender Metz, France, to Prussians.

1871 — Britain annexes diamond fields of Kimberly, South Africa.

1922 — Southern Rhodesia referendum rejects joining Union of South Africa.

1951 — Egyptians abrogate 1936 alliance treaty with Britain and 1899 agreement over Sudan.

1966 — U.N. General Assembly proclaims termination of South Africa's mandate over South-West Africa.

1973 — United Nations peacekeeping force arrives in Cairo to attempt to set up lasting ceasefire between Israeli and Arab forces.

1977 — President Jimmy Carter rules out any U.S. embargo on trade with South

Africa or any ban on U.S. investment in that nation to protest its racial policies.

1978 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat and Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin are awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

1987 — South Korean voters approve overwhelmingly new constitution clearing way for first direct presidential elections in 16 years.

1988 — Czech authorities arrest dozens of dissidents and impose strict security on Prague.

1989 — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announces end to ceasefire with U.S.-backed anti-Sandinista rebels.

1990 — American journalist Terry Anderson turns 43, spending his sixth birthday as hostage in Lebanon.

Monday, Oct. 28

1492 — Christopher Columbus discovers Cuba on his first voyage to new world.

1690 — Savoy formally joins Grand Alliance against France.

1708 — Sweden's King Charles XII takes Mohiler, Russia, and invades Ukraine.

1836 — Federation of Peru and Bolivia is proclaimed.

1867 — French troops land at Civita Vecchia, Italy.

1886 — Statue of Liberty is dedicated in New York City harbour.

1890 — German East Africa Company cedes its territorial rights to Germany.

1922 — Benito Mussolini marches on Rome.

1962 — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev announces he has ordered withdrawal of Soviet missiles from Cuba.

1971 — House of Commons votes in favour of England's entry into European Common Market.

1974 — Arab heads of state, including Jordan's King Hussein, issue declaration calling for creation of independent Palestinian state.

1975 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat meets with U.S. President Gerald Ford and urges him to end U.S. diplomatic boycott of Palestine Liberation Organisation.

1977 — U.N. General Assembly censures Israel for establishing settlements in occupied Arab territories, calling action illegal and damaging to peace efforts.

By The Associated Press.

Golden Lotus — China's dirty secret may soon be uncovered

By Andrew Browne
Reuters

PEKING — Is it high art or dirty smut?

For almost four centuries the erotic novel Golden Lotus has been the secret of China's literary world.

It is a tale of courtiers and concubines, of sing-song girls and drunken revelry that takes its title from one of the many fragile beauties of the novel whose sexual dalliances fill its pages.

Tottering on bound feet "no broader than two fingers," Golden Lotus captured the heart of the lecherous silk merchant and landowner, Ximen Qing.

"Golden Lotus incites Ximen to chastise Snow Blossom," "Ximen deflowers Cinnamon Bud," "Spring Plum has a fit of the sulks," are some of the chapter headings of the novel, a mixture of exquisite manners and salacious sex that has been banned by Confucian Mandarins and Communist cadres alike.

New hope has emerged for this unacknowledged classic. Modern scholars have been pleading with China's censors to recognise the work as art. At last they are listening.

Permission has been granted for the first interna-

tional conference on the novel in China. It is scheduled for early next year in eastern Shandong province, in a town thought to be the birthplace of the mystery author.

"It's a breakthrough," said Shen Tianyou, a professor of Chinese literature at Peking University.

At 59, this shiny-faced, fastidiously tidy man, is finally gaining recognition for his life's research into Golden Lotus. The book may well be smut, he says, but it is a literary goldmine for it gives modern readers a window into the private lives of ordinary Chinese centuries ago.

"It has great value. Everything is laid open: What people ate, how they argued, and how they made love. It has a special place in Chinese literature. You could call it a kind of liberation," he said.

Worries over the subversive effect of Golden Lotus are as real today as when it was first published in around 1610, evidence of the power of the written language, and rulers' fears of moral challenges to the social order.

In the Miao Dynasty (1368-1644) book Rules For The Wine Drinker, Golden Lotus is listed as required reading for the complete

drinker, indispensable for boozing conversation.

Such rowdy sentiments prompted the Manchurian Emperor Kang Xi to ban the work as "licentious fiction" in 1687.

It is still banned from public sale, but like secret government documents the book is available to a small circle of insiders under the "Neibu," or "internal circulation," system. A limited-edition series was recently published. Each volume is numbered, and the buyer's name recorded.

Professor Shen has a copy, which he keeps locked in a cupboard. He cannot yet advocate free distribution.

"I'm afraid that if this book was released, it would damage public morals. I'm more of a free thinker than most, but Western and Eastern thinking are not the same," he explained.

"China has suffered from feudal thinking for too long. Sex is seen as mysterious and dirty, and that's the way people would read the book. The sex is too vivid. No, it would not be good for young people."

An abridged copy of Golden Lotus, whose Chinese name is "Jinpingmei", is in the Lending Library of Peking University. Of the 80,000

Chinese characters that make up this huge novel, 19,000 are missing.

Chinese scholars compare the debate over Golden Lotus with the furore in Europe over Lady Chatterley's Lover, the D.H. Lawrence novel that was initially banned.

The comparison must end there. Golden Lotus has far more in common with the Kama Sutra. Even Westerners admit it takes their breath away.

"I've read the whole thing," said one seasoned China-watcher in Peking. "And I can tell you, it's hair-raising stuff."

Chinese readers can only guess. "Everybody in China knows about this book," one Peking artist said. "If it went on sale, it would be a national sensation."

According to popular legend, the author presented the book to his enemy, the Prime Minister Yan Shifan, coating the top of each page with poison. Yan dropped dead after he had wet his thumb to turn the final page.

Scholars hope the modern saga of this novel will, like its lecherous central character, have a happy ending. Ximen Qing died while making love to Golden Lotus.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 24

8:30 The Simpsons

Mr. Simpson goes to the store to buy ice-cream. Meanwhile, armed thieves burglarise the store, and Simpson Jr. manages to identify the real assailants.

9:10 Beyond West World

This time, the target is the state governor, but security people at Delores manage to abort the assassination plan.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Diane

Count de Brasse is sentenced to death for participating in the coup against King Henry of France, but De Brasse's wife, Diane, manages to convince the king to release him. Diane is later banished from the country by Henry's wife.

Friday, Oct. 25

8:30 Coach

Christine is running the most important TV show in her life and she wants Haiden to watch it, but Haiden is obliged to go away on a short trip to sign a contract with an athlete.

9:10 Continuation of Shakespeare's Othello

10:00 News in English

10:20 W.L.O.U.

The major story is that of a clinic in town and the protests of the patients who are turned back.

Saturday, Oct. 26

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Uncle Buck

Sunday, Oct. 27

8:30 The Golden Girls

Comedy Of Errors

9:10 Murder She Wrote

From Russia With Blood

Jessica is in Moscow on a cultural exchange mission. A murder is committed and she helps investigate and find the murderer.

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Orchid House

Monday, Oct. 28

8:30 Hey Dad

9:10 The Midas Touch

The Price Of Greed

10:00 News in English

10:20 Gabriel's Fire

Tuesday, Oct. 29

8:30 Who's The Boss

One Flew Over The Empty Nest

9:10 Our House

Candles And Shadows

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Feature Film

Wednesday, Oct. 30

8:30 Kate And Allie

My Dinner With Kate And Allie

Kate And Allie invite their mothers to a dinner — and live to regret it.

9:10 Cosmos

10:00 News in English

10:20 Equal Justice

The episode presents three white youths, who attack two blacks, killing one and badly injuring the other.

Johnson starts his quest to bury Sonny Crockett

By Michael Miller
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — If there is one thing Don Johnson does not like, it is being called "Miami Vice star Don Johnson."

He wants to put the television series behind him in an effort to renew his career as a movie actor.

"I guess it was okay when the series was still current, but not now. I want to bury Sonny Crockett (his Miami Vice character)," he told Reuters in an interview.

"And I think I'm succeeding. I think people realise there's an actor out there. Don't forget, I made a dozen movies before Miami Vice, but people tend to forget that."

Critics say he had gone a

long way towards putting the television series behind him with his new movie *Paradise*, in which he stars with his second-time-around wife, Melanie Griffith.

"Mr. Johnson ... brings Ben (his character) convincingly from an attitude of quiet distaste for life to a cautious renewal of hope and feeling. (He) can be surprisingly effective playing simple men in plain surroundings," wrote New York Times critic Janet Maslin.

Working with his wife on the movie was "A Blast," Johnson said.

"First of all, she's a very extraordinary and gifted actress, so on the professional level it was a joy to work with her."

"Then on the other hand, there is the comfort of know-

ing you can work with somebody who you feel very secure with and very safe."

"You don't have to be concerned about whether you are going to make a fool out of yourself because when you're married you tend to make a fool out of yourself a lot. So it was a good experience on two levels," he said.

Johnson, 41, and Griffith, 33, the daughter of actress Tippi Hedren, first married 15 years ago, but the marriage lasted less than a year. They got back together and remarried in June, 1989.

The story line in *Paradise*, about a couple drifting apart and then brought back together by their mutual feeling for a friend's young son who has come to spend the summer with them, was an easy one for Johnson and

Griffith to identify with, the actor said.

"We did discuss (our roles), but for us, we had so much natural history that it wasn't necessary for us to debate on it," he said.

The film's producer, Patrick Palmer, said Johnson's role was the greatest acting challenge the actor has had to date, and he came through with flying colours.

"He's reached an acting potential ... that movie audiences have yet to see in this talented man. He is exceedingly good in the part," he said.

Johnson, while happy to accept the accolade, says the credit should go to the screenwriter and director, Mary Agnes Donoghue.

"The difference is in the material. I don't care who

you are as an actor, if you don't have good material it isn't going to work. But when the material is good everything comes together and it's a joy."

Johnson, once known as a firebrand who fought with directors and everyone else on the set, says he has mellowed.

"I think that as you get older you tend to displace the pressure a little easier and during that time (the Miami Vice years) I had a lot of pressure on me, and you tend to disperse it in different ways."

"When you're younger you tend to enlist everybody's help to help you carry it. They're reluctant volunteers, let's put it that way."

"As you get older you learn how to not take it all so

seriously. You kind of take a more enlivened look at it, I suppose."

But don't get him wrong, he added quickly. He still fights to get his ideas across on how he should play his character.

"You always get in there and mix it up, otherwise it's not a collaboration. Otherwise you're just a duck, a robot, and any director worth his salt doesn't want a robot," he said.

"They want somebody who's going to bring some fire and some challenge to the part."

"So Mary Agnes and I discussed (the role), and we argued and we challenged each other. But in the end she's the director, it's her movie, her vision, and I respect that."



Don Johnson

Jodie Foster: From child star to movie director

By Michael Miller
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — She starred in her first film when she was nine, and now, at the age of 28, Jodie Foster is a movie director.

More than that, she chose to direct a movie that in many ways mirrors her own life: A gifted child, reared by a



Foster confronts the press in the film *The Accused*

single parent, who leads a lonely life because he is "different" from other kids.

Foster, who made her debut in *Napoleon And Samantha*, and shook filmgoers with her performance as a child prostitute in *Taxi Driver* at the age of 12, admits to the autobiographical aspect of her latest movie, *Little Man Tate*, in which she also stars.

"There are autobiog-

raphical splashes in everything I do, but especially this movie. I think it's the most personal movie I've done," she said in an interview.

Asked whether her new film reflects her relationship with her mother, Foster said: "I think it's more subtle than that. It's much more about the sensibilities, the things that I care about, the things that have shaped me in my life."

"But yes, it is partly about my relationship with my mother. Because I was a child from a single parent family."

Foster's father left home while her mother was still pregnant with Jodie. He lives in Los Angeles but Foster has rarely seen him. She was brought up by her mother, along with her two elder sisters and an older brother.

In *Little Man Tate* Foster plays the single mother of a young mathematics genius, portrayed by Adam Hann-Byrd who, like Foster, is making his film debut at the age of nine.

Foster not only identified with Hann-Byrd's role as the lonely gifted child, but with the young actor himself.

Foster says being different from most other children "sort of sets you apart in a way. You try and find your

group, your group of people that you will be able to speak to and talk to, who kind of understand how you feel."

While she was protective of Hann-Byrd during the making of the movie, guiding him and telling him of her own movie-making experiences at that age, she said she did not think being a child actor would necessarily hurt him.

Asked if she thought Hann-Byrd could ever again lead a normal life, she replied: "Who wants a normal life? I don't want a normal life. To me, normal is kind of like a dirty word."

"I think healthy is important. The question is, will he have a healthy life? Having a healthy life is much more about who you start out to be, what your character is, who your parents are, what your home life is."

"And frankly, I think the more information you get about the world the better, as long as your heart is protected."

But she conceded that her maternal instincts made her worry about how other directors might treat him in the future.

"I would like to monitor his next movie and make sure they're the right people he's working with."

Would she like children of her own? "I think about it, but it isn't something that obsesses me in a desperate way," she said.

Foster says that her role as director was influenced by her experiences in front of the camera.

"I've had every type of working experience, good ones, bad ones, good directors, lousy directors, directors that yell at you, directors that don't, directors that never talk to you."

Based on that, she said, she tried to be a director who "brought you out of yourself, who gave you confidence, but who didn't have too many expectations either."

Relating her experience as a first-time director who also stars in the movie, she said she did not realise how gruelling it would be.

"Physically it's exhausting, just the routine of getting up at five o'clock every morning, and going into hair and make-up before anyone else gets there, directing people in a ridiculous outfit, having people touch you while you're trying to give directions, makeup and stuff."

Foster's day didn't end after 12 hours of shooting. She spends every evening going through the footage that had



Jodie Foster

been shot that day, deciding which scenes worked and which would have to be re-filmed.

But she said it was fascinating experience and one she would like to repeat. But not just yet.

"This has been a long haul. I'm ready to act for a little while. Actually I'm craving it. There's something about performing that's just very unique, very intoxicating, and I miss it a little bit, so I'd like to do that now."

"But eventually I'd love to direct. It's the most sane and healthy experience I've ever had. I definitely see that as my future, I just don't know when."

Making films in Guinea-Bissau — no money, no studio, no scripts

By Judith Matloff
Reuters

BISSAU — He lacks money, some of his actors can't read scripts and the studio is a crumbling building where moss grows on the walls.

But internationally-acclaimed director Flores Gomes carries on making films despite the odds in his native Guinea-Bissau, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Creating films in a country few Western audiences have heard of and which has only eight movie houses does not deter him from striving to capture Guinea-Bissau's turbulent reality on film.

"Believe me, it is not easy to make a film in Africa, with such a lack of resources and trained people," says the bearded 42-year-old director who works in a decaying hall in the capital Bissau.

Perhaps to stress his point, he adds: "Hey, can you give me a lift downtown? I don't have a car."

His first work, *Morta Nega* (Death Denied), has won critical acclaim at various international film festivals, including Venice, since it came out in 1988.

Told through the eyes of a peasant woman, it starkly depicts the 14-year guerrilla war which toppled Portuguese colonial rule in 1974.

Gomes shot the film in the jungles and fields where Africa's longest liberation struggle was waged, using amateur actors speaking the local dialect Crioulo.

It was the product of eight years of work and tireless efforts by childhood friends to raise \$540,000 of financing in Guinea-Bissau, France and Sweden.

Now Gomes is working on his second film, "Os Olhos Azuis De Yonta" (Yonta's Blue Eyes), a love triangle between a revolutionary hero, an innocent youth from the provinces and a beautiful but superficial city girl.

The \$900,000 budget and production work is mainly coming from France and Portugal.

As in *Morta Nega*, actors are mainly amateurs recruited in villages, streets or bars who have no experience acting or reading scripts. "We have to train them from zero."

He hopes to finish the film by June and to move onto his third project, which is about the destruction of the en-

vironment and a villager who fights to save a tree he grew up with.

Gomes forms part of a new breed of West African directors who are increasingly picking up awards at festivals abroad.

But unlike his Francophone colleagues from Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso he speaks Portuguese — and is perhaps the only filmmaker from Portugal's five former African colonies with an international reputation.

This means a potentially smaller audience and making his African themes appealing at European box offices is a big preoccupation.

"It is especially hard for us African film-makers. We always have to think about the impact abroad as well as our own public. It has to be a work which strikes a universal note."

Knowledge of cinema came late to Gomes. Born in the southern town of Cadique, he saw relatively few movies in his youth. But he jumped at a grant to study film in Cuba and went there in 1967-72 partly to get away from the war ravaging his country.

In the years following independence he worked as a journalist for Guinea-Bissau's state-run media and later got practical experience in film-making in neighbouring Senegal.

The liberation struggle of the 1960s and early 1970s shaped his artistic outlook.

"I am from the generation that lived through the war, it affected me profoundly. It is natural to be concerned with political themes after going through something like that."

Though a loyal member of the PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde), Gomes has like many other Guinean intellectuals grown disenchanted with the slow pace of democratic reforms promised by the leadership.

He has joined a group of party reformists, the so-called Group Of 121, which is urging President Joao Bernardo Vieira to speed up the transition to a multi-party system and hold free elections soon.

"I admire the men and party which liberated the country but there are different demands now," he said. "There has to be greater freedom if this country is to get ahead and develop."

Humour is a corporate hit, too, for John Cleese

By Kate Dourian
Reuters

NEW MALDEN, England — John Cleese, star of the hit comedy-thriller *A Fish Called Wanda*, finds his brand of humour is a corporate won, too.

Cleese is back at a favourite studio just outside London producing yet another of his big-selling videotapes in which humour is used to teach executives how to be better managers.

"We realised that if we could get people to laugh at the wrong way of doing things, then by laughing and by remembering their laughter, they would remember the lesson," Cleese said in an interview.

Video Arts, a company which Cleese founded in 1972 to make the training programmes, has sold £26 million (\$45 million) worth of them worldwide in countries as diverse as Thailand, Zimbabwe and Brazil.

British Airways and the U.S. space agency, NASA, are among organisations who use the videos as behavioural guides for trainees.

With titles like *If Looks Could Kill: The Power Of Behaviour, Meetings, Bloody Meetings* and *The Customer Is Always Right*, the videos are translated into 20 languages.

Comedy is the common ingredient. Cambridge-educated Cleese has written and starred in most of them. He calls his technique "recogni-

tion humour."

His latest video is about assertiveness, a quality Cleese finds lacking in fellow Britons.

"The English are not very assertive. They are rather apologetic," Cleese says. "If you can be assertive as Americans can, you can draw attention to the situation and begin to get the attention and the respect that you deserve."

The English, he says, equate assertiveness with arrogance.

That is why in one episode of his hit television series *Fawlty Towers*, starring Cleese as the owner and manager of disaster-prone seaside hotel, it was an American couple who stood up against shoddy British service.

Cleese, 52, studied to be a lawyer and spent two years teaching before being lured by showbusiness. He finds humour is not incompatible with the serious business of teaching.

"There is a difference between being serious and being solemn. We can be talking about something that was very serious and still be laughing ... It is quite different from solemnity, which I think is introduced by pompous people because they know that if any humour is allowed their pomposity will be deflated."

The tall, gangly comedian first burst upon the British comedy scene with the now classic Monty Python television series *Relishing his role*

as educator, he plans to produce educational programmes next.

The prolific Cleese also hopes to repeat the success of *A Fish Called Wanda*, which he wrote, produced and starred in, with a new film using the same cast, which included Jamie Lee Curtis and Kevin Kline.

He is also writing a book which he believes will be the basis for several films.

Between-times, he is appearing in a series of British television commercials.

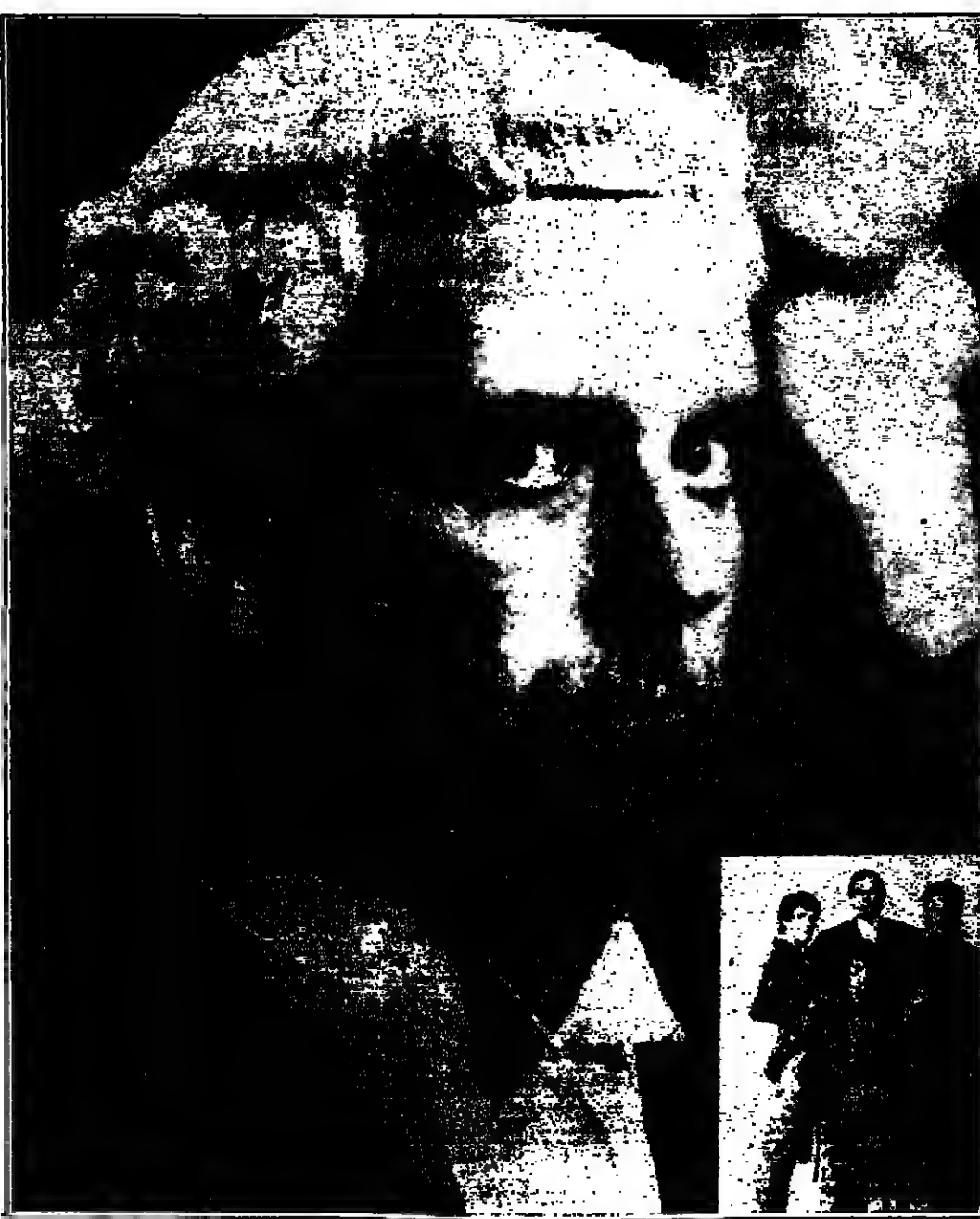
Asked if he drew some of his scripts from real life, Cleese laughed as he recalled an incident 24 years ago when he went to meet his mother at a London railway station in his first big car, a second-hand Rolls Royce he hoped would impress her.

His mother made no comment except to ask him if he had enough petrol for the journey.

Does he ever yearn for a serious role?

"Comedy is just as profound as drama and if it's done well it is more profound than drama," Cleese replied, stretching his long legs to ease discomfort of a knee injury suffered on a film set.

"If I ever have anything to say, it is much more persuasive to say it with humour ... because if you can get an audience to laugh at a joke they accept the point of the joke. If I wanted to say something about the human condition, I am almost sure I can say it better with laughter than I could without."



John Cleese and the cast of *A Fish Called Wanda*

Research shows immune hormone can enhance some bacterial growth

By Paul Reer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An immune system hormone secreted by the body in response to infection may actually help a virulent strain of bacteria to thrive, according to a study.

Dr. Reuven Porat of the New England Medical Center Hospitals in Boston said that test tube studies show that high concentrations of an immunological hormone called interleukin-1, or IL-1, can actually intensify the growth of a *Escherichia coli* bacterial strain.

"These bacteria have somehow adopted their own mechanism to use the body's (immune system) product in order to circumvent the possibility of being killed by the body," said Dr. Porat. "In a way, the bacteria is pretty smart."

A report on the study was published in the *Journal of Science*, which is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

IL-1 is one of a large family of immune system hormones that the body produces in response to an infection. Scientists have been studying the substance for about three decades now because high concentrations of IL-1 can cause fever, inflammation, hypertension and shock in weakened patients infected with virulent bacteria.

"In certain concentrations it can be harmful and in certain concentrations it can be beneficial," said Dr. Porat.

Dr. Porat said the laboratory experiment was conducted using a virulent form of *E. coli*, a type of *Bacilli* that is a common cause of overwhelming and often fatal infection. A benign form of *E. coli* inhabits the intestinal tract.

"Most *E. coli* are not virulent," he said. But some types can become deadly, said Dr. Porat, as a result of changes in the immune system, changes in the bacteria, or because some virulent form was introduced into the patient.

This occurs most often in patients already weakened by surgery, wounds or other infections or disorders. The scientist said that 100,000 to 300,000 Americans annually die of massive infections caused by virulent *E. coli* and similar germs.

In the study, virulent *E. coli* was combined in test tubes with high concentrations of IL-1 and the bacteria showed a growth spurt.

Dr. Porat and his co-authors said the Science report that IL-1 "could serve as a growth factor for virulent bacteria," thereby potentially worsening infection or the risk of infection.

"The growth is probably promoted because of some type of stimulus that the IL-1 causes to the bacteria," said Dr. Porat. "We have no idea at this moment what this stimulus is."

Early studies in laboratories in England, Canada and in Cleveland, said Dr. Porat, have shown that other immune system hormones, including other forms of interleukin, can enhance growth of some other strains of bacteria.

Male cocaine use may increase risk of birth defects

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Men who use cocaine may increase the risk their offspring will be abnormal, say researchers who found that the drug binds tightly to sperm in test tubes.

The study raises the possibility that cocaine may piggyback onto sperm as they enter and fertilize eggs, or that the drug may damage male genes before fertilization, said the head of the team at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

The findings also raise the possibility that environmen-

tal poisons, which reach far more men than cocaine, could endanger fetuses by latching onto sperm the same way, said the authors and an independent researcher.

The authors put sperm from several dozen drug-free men in test tubes along with cocaine at various temperatures and concentrations, including concentrations typical in the blood of cocaine users.

The cocaine harmed neither the sperm's ability to move nor to live, even at toxic drug concentrations, but it latched tightly onto the male cells, the researchers said in the *Journal of the American*

Medical Association. "This novel mechanism could be involved in the abnormal development of offspring of cocaine-exposed males," the authors said.

One possibility is that cocaine rides the sperm into the egg. Another is that the drug damages the sperm itself by altering its genes, said Dr. Ricardo A. Yazigi, now at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia.

No studies of human have linked male cocaine use with abnormal offspring, Dr. Yazigi acknowledged. But research on rodents indicates males exposed to cocaine are more likely to have offspring

with nervous, hormonal or behavioral problems," Dr. Yazigi and his colleagues noted.

And studies on humans and rats indicate alcohol-consuming males are more likely to father abnormal offspring than males not exposed to alcohol, the authors noted. The abnormalities were low birth weights in humans and neurological problems in rats, Dr. Yazigi said.

It has been shown that drugs in the bloodstream can enter the male reproductive tract in high concentration, Dr. Yazigi said.

A co-author, Dr. Randall R. Odem, said cocaine use in

fathers is unlikely to cause the same problems in babies as cocaine use by their mothers, which include prematurity, an elevated risk of death, growth retardation and nerve and behavior problems.

"Those babies are addicted because of their exposure in utero (in the womb)," Dr. Odem said in a telephone interview from St. Louis.

"We're talking more about cocaine (use by fathers) affecting brain development. It's going to be manifest more in the way of learning disabilities, perhaps problems with memory," Dr. Hans Van Der Ven, an

associate professor of gynecology at the University of Chicago Medical Center, said the study is a "very first step" in exploring whether chemicals can use sperm as a vehicle to get into eggs.

"The concept is pretty important, whether a substance can bind and lead to malformations in the offspring," said Dr. Van Der Ven, a specialist in sperm viability and environmental toxins.

The new study may have far greater implications for the study of toxins like cancer-causing PCBs and their effects on fetuses than for cocaine and its effects on the unborn, he said.

Researchers rush to announce gene for deafness

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Studies of deafness in 500 descendants of a prosperous 18th-century Costa Rican landowner have led for the first time to a gene that might explain many inherited forms of hearing loss, researchers said Monday.

A report of the research, completed only days ago, was rushed onto the agenda of the eighth international congress of human genetics because of its potential importance, said Dr. Victor McKusick of Johns Hopkins University, who is presiding over the conference.

The researchers said this was the first discovery of a gene known to cause primary inherited deafness — that is, deafness that does not result from some other hereditary problem.

In the report, Pedro E. Leon of the University of Costa Rica and Mary-Claire King of the University of California, Berkeley said they had "mapped" the gene to a small region on chromosome 5, one of the 23 paired chromosomes that carry human genes.

The next step will be to isolate the gene and determine precisely how it is causing hearing loss, Dr. Leon said.

Kathleen Arnos, a geneticist at Gallaudet University in Washington, said the gene could help explain the cause of many forms of deafness.

Dr. King noted that another inherited condition called Treacher-Collins Syndrome, which is characterized by deafness in combination with other severe abnormalities, has also been mapped to the same part of Chromosome 5.

"If two things that far apart turn out to be the same gene, then maybe a lot of other (forms of deafness) will be too," Dr. King said.

Since 1977, Dr. Leon and his colleagues have been studying deafness in residents of Cartago, a small city outside San Jose, Costa Rica.

They have identified 53 families with an unusual form of deafness in which children begin to lose the ability to hear low frequencies by the

age of 10 or 15, and gradually become completely deaf by about the age of 30.

The researchers traced all of the families back to a single ancestor, an 18th-century landowner named Felix Monge, who was wealthy enough to have left land to his offspring and to have hired a notary to prepare documents.

Records show that Monge had the same form of deafness as his descendants,

occurring after he had learned to speak.

Dr. Leon collected blood samples from 86 of Monge's descendants to analyze their genetic material.

He and Dr. King, who joined the project in May, found that half of all children born to the families were deaf, meaning that inheriting the gene from one or the other parent would be sufficient to cause the illness.

By following the pattern of

inheritance, the researchers were able to identify a genetic pattern on Chromosome 5 that was present in all family members who were deaf and absent in those who were not deaf.

The problem in the Monge family members apparently lies in the Cochlea, the fluid-filled spiral bone that transmits vibrations from the bones of the inner ear to the nervous system," Dr. Leon said.

Researchers find cells that may cause multiple sclerosis

By Paul Reer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Researchers have said they have identified specific types of human white blood cells thought to cause multiple sclerosis (MS) by attacking nerve tissue — a crucial first step toward treating the disease.

Halina Offner of the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland said she and her co-authors were able to identify the type of white blood cells, or lymphocytes, that attack myelin, a protein that covers and protects nerve cells.

The work, said Ms. Offner, "closes the loop" by verifying earlier animal studies that showed multiple sclerosis could be caused by the action of these lymphocytes.

Ms. Offner said that a peptide that blocks the destruction caused by the lymphocytes is now being tested on 11 patients in Oregon. She

said it is too early to tell if the treatment will control or cure the disease.

A similar peptide tested earlier in laboratory animals showed that it could prevent or stop the progression of a rodent disease similar to MS.

Multiple sclerosis is a slowly progressing disease marked by weakness, vision loss, paralysis and other nerve disorders. It is thought to be caused when lymphocytes, a key attack cell in the immune system, lock onto cells of myelin in the brain and spinal cord. When this protein covering of nerve cells is destroyed by the lymphocytes, it causes the underlying nerves to malfunction and die.

MS strikes about 250,000 Americans annually. Young people are the most frequent victims, with diagnosis generally occurring between the ages 20 and 40. There currently is no effective treatment.

In some patients, MS is

rapidly progressive and death may come within a year. In others, there can be long periods of remission and the disease may extend over 25 years or more.

Ms. Offner said that by isolating lymphocytes from the blood of MS patients and from normal patients, she and her co-researchers were able to prove that the blood of MS patients have a much higher population of white blood cells that attack the nerve tissue. These cells, called Myelin Basic Protein, or MBP, lymphocytes were found to be of two types, she said.

"This is the first time this study has been done in humans," Ms. Offner said. But she noted it duplicates earlier work on rodents. The new study is published in the current issue of the *Proceedings of National Academy of Science*.

The earlier animal studies demonstrated that a peptide made specifically to react to

the MBP lymphocytes could block those cells from attacking the nerve tissue.

"We proved in animals that with the use of the peptide the course of the disease was shortened," Ms. Offner said.

The peptide, she said, causes the body's regulatory lymphocytes to find and neutralize the MBP lymphocytes gone, Ms. Offner said it is hoped that the disease process will stop and that the body will repair the damaged myelin coating of the nerve cells.

Experimental therapy using human peptide started in February on patients at the Oregon Health Sciences University, she said, but it still is too early to determine if the treatment will stop the MS progression.

"We don't have a miracle, but it looks promising," Ms. Offner said. "All of the patients are stable. We haven't seen any side effects."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

RUMPER CROP

By E.E.

ACROSS

- 1 Tumbler
- 2 Horse god
- 3 Clearing
- 4 Toward
- 5 Intimidates
- 6 City on the Rhine
- 7 Civil War
- 8 A predecessor of
- 9 This importance
- 10 Take care of a
- 11 It's clear to me
- 12 Muse of lyric
- 13 Additional
- 14 Dandelion
- 15 Exchange words
- 16 Like — of bricks
- 17 Submachine gun
- 18 Footlike part

DOWN

- 1 "The —" (Steinbeck novel)
- 2 Caravan train
- 3 Potted
- 4 Command to a dog
- 5 Geronimo
- 6 "Caprice and —" (opera)
- 7 "— Town"
- 8 High or deep start
- 9 Days over
- 10 City near
- 11 Gull: So
- 12 Device to determine
- 13 Mating man
- 14 Vex
- 15 Legal documents

33 Social

- 34 "I see not" before me
- 35 Winter hazard
- 36 Paper vestments
- 37 Clothing tool
- 38 A predecessor of
- 39 This importance
- 40 Take care of a
- 41 It's clear to me
- 42 Muse of lyric
- 43 Additional
- 44 Dandelion
- 45 Exchange words
- 46 Like — of bricks
- 47 Submachine gun
- 48 Footlike part

16 Use a gladium

- 17 Public way
- 18 Kind of school
- 19 Thrills of yore
- 20 Burlesque singer
- 21 Burlesque singer
- 22 Burlesque singer
- 23 Burlesque singer
- 24 Burlesque singer
- 25 Burlesque singer
- 26 Burlesque singer
- 27 Burlesque singer
- 28 Burlesque singer
- 29 Burlesque singer
- 30 Burlesque singer
- 31 Burlesque singer
- 32 Burlesque singer

35 —, amos, amos

Diagramless

17 X 17, By Don Johnson

ACROSS

- 1 Do, re, mi, etc.
- 2 Large rollers
- 3 Thin and filmy
- 4 Established as compulsory
- 5 Like some glass windows
- 6 — Aft
- 7 Pear below s
- 8 Leg part
- 9 Plant resembling grass
- 10 Twelve-month
- 11 Recede word
- 12 Hang in folds
- 13 Two-masted
- 14 — animal
- 15 Galle
- 16 Reson
- 17 Yale student
- 18 Process of making coins
- 19 Time long ago

DOWN

- 1 Rousing sticks
- 2 Desert
- 3 Three — one's eye
- 4 (Lovers)
- 5 Zodiac
- 6 — animal
- 7 Galle
- 8 Reson
- 9 Yale student
- 10 Process of making coins
- 11 Time long ago
- 12 Plant resembling grass
- 13 Twelve-month
- 14 Recede word
- 15 Hang in folds
- 16 Two-masted
- 17 — animal
- 18 Galle
- 19 Reson
- 20 Yale student
- 21 Process of making coins
- 22 Time long ago

30 Southpaw e.g.

31 Masked do-

32 Heat the day

33 Relaxation of

34 Manors

35 Rebecca or Moe

36 Advantage

37 Robert —

38 Finished

39 Play the road

40 Again

41 Taxes

42 Fruit

43 Haulmogen

44 Certain horse

45 Intrinsically

46 Pub drink

47 Printing

48 Term

49 Merit unit

50 High mountains

51 Regis

52 Dandy

53 Swift canon

54 Certifies

55 Cupid

56 Comp. pt.

57 To shiver

58 Littery

59 Paintings

60 Littery

61 Need

62 Pies

63 Ties or Net

64 Wyatt and kin

65 Usher's domain

66 Certifies

67 Cupid

68 Comp. pt.

69 To shiver

70 Littery

71 Paintings

72 Littery

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74 Pies

75 Ties or Net

76 Wyatt and kin

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129 To shiver

130 Littery

131 Paintings

132 Littery

133 Need

134 Pies

135 Ties or Net

136 Wyatt and kin

137 Usher's domain

138 Certifies

139 Cupid

140 Comp. pt.

141 To shiver

142 Littery

Arabs meet to coordinate positions

(Continued from page 1)

The Palestinians will be represented by 14 negotiators in a joint delegation with Jordan, but those expected to coordinate closely with the PLO.

Diplomatic sources said in Washington Israel and the Arab parties had sidestepped a dispute over the venue of bilateral peace talks immediately following the peace conference by agreeing to begin them in Madrid.

The agreement avoids what could have been a damaging procedural controversy about how and where to start the one-on-one talks that are supposed to follow the opening of the conference.

Israel originally insisted that the talks be held in the Middle East, while Syria insisted on Madrid. Middle East diplomats said an agreement was taking shape to hold at least opening sessions in Madrid, probably on Nov. 3.

"The agreement only covers the opening sessions and no more," said one diplomat who asked not to be named. He said the opening sessions would deal with technical details such as the agenda for the talks, a permanent venue and the procedure.

However, agreement to hold at least one bilateral session is important because failure to do so would have created an impression that the peace process was failing to meet its first agreed target within days of being

formally launched.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, the chief Palestinian negotiator for the peace conference, said Wednesday that Israel was only "pretending" not to know he and his colleagues would be a PLO delegation.

Mr. Abdul Shafi added, however, that he did not intend to make any statement about affiliation at the conference.

"We have no intention of inciting anybody about anything," he said. "We want this conference to achieve results."

Dr. Abdul Shafi also criticized Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement to the European Parliament this week that the Jewish state is unwilling to consider giving up the occupied Arab lands.

"If we are talking about peace, there is nothing accomplished by thinking and speaking on these lines," Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

In an interview at his Gaza City home, Dr. Abdul Shafi also said Palestinians were hoping for support from the Arab leaders who met in Damascus.

Asked about Israel's threat not to attend the conference if it must face a PLO delegation, Dr. Abdul Shafi said: "They know very well it is a PLO delegation. They are pretending."

He said he did not expect Mr. Shamir's government to object "because I think they are aware of the absurdity of their position."

Mideast is going nuclear — Arens

(Continued from page 1)

capacity... Muslims should strive to go ahead, which I hope they will... in other words the atomic capacity of Muslims and Israel should be at par," he said.

"That is not the business of the United Nations or of the Security Council... to decide," he added.

Mr. Mohajeri accused India of collaborating with Israel on plans to destroy Pakistan's nuclear facilities.

"Some time ago they (Israel and India) wanted to use a Sri Lankan air base to destroy the nuclear centres in Pakistan. This implies that Israel has already felt the threats, and that it wants to have the upper hand in its dealings with the Muslim states," he said.

Pakistan's top nuclear scientist, Abdul Qader Khan, Wednesday denied he had said that the coun-

try had become a nuclear weapons power.

Karachi's independent daily newspaper Dawn Tuesday quoted Mr. Khan as telling a fund-raising dinner that whether anyone believed it or not, it was a fact that Pakistan was a nuclear power.

But in a telephone interview from his office at Pakistan's top-secret Kahuta nuclear facility outside Islamabad, Mr. Khan said he had been misunderstood.

"I had said that our programme is peaceful and in spite of our persistent denials the Western countries do not believe us and consider us as a nuclear power," Mr. Khan said.

Pakistan has always officially denied it has nuclear weapons or is trying to develop a device. It says its nuclear programme is peaceful and geared to meeting

its energy needs.

Despite the denials, Pakistan is widely believed to have a nuclear device or to be at least on the verge of making one.

Fears by the United States that Pakistan had accelerated efforts to produce weapons-grade uranium at Kahuta led to the suspension of all economic and military aid a year ago.

A senior European diplomat said on Tuesday there had been a pattern of unofficial disclosures followed by government denials. These appeared designed to make Pakistan's traditional foe India believe it had a credible deterrent.

U.S. officials have said the change in uranium enrichment at Kahuta last year coincided with a major rise in tension with India over unrest in Indian Kashmir.

India exploded an atomic device in 1974 but also denies possessing nuclear weapons.

Baker optimistic of talks' success

(Continued from page 1)

delegation. They won't be accredited delegates and they won't attend the conference."

Wednesday was the deadline for all parties to formally respond to invitations. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev issued last week.

A senior U.S. official told reporters that responses were coming in various forms — in public statements, not necessarily in written letters — and Washington did not expect any problems in that regard.

Later, a U.S. official said Mr. Baker and Mr. Pankin had discussed practical arrangements for the peace conference and a meeting which Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev are due to hold be-

forehand.

"They discussed modalities of the peace conference, such as staffing, speaking order and cost," said the official.

Mr. Pankin, at a news conference after his meeting with Mr. Baker, spoke of "solidarity" between the PLO and the Soviet Union. He said his talks Tuesday with Mr. Arafat were "friendly" and held "in a spirit of sincerity."

"We emphasized that all the problems of the Middle East must be resolved in a peaceful manner, through a process of discussion," Mr. Pankin said. "In this sense... the mere fact that this conference is taking place next week is a success."

Mr. Baker and Mr. Pankin were among officials from 19 countries in Paris to sign a peace treaty ending Cambodia's 13-year

civil war and setting in motion a United Nations operation to arrange democratic elections.

Prior to the afternoon signing ceremony, Mr. Baker also met with the foreign ministers of China, Japan and Vietnam.

President Bush said Tuesday people should not have great expectations of the peace conference, because it was unlikely to bring instant peace to the Middle East.

"People ought not to get (their) expectations too high," Mr. Bush told a handful of reporters who were mingling with his guests after a state dinner with visiting Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel in the White House.

"Nobody expects that after three days of talks, instant peace in the Middle East," Mr. Bush said. "But it's a very, very important beginning."

Expert reports close coordination

(Continued from page 1)

legation were from Jerusalem and that the Jordanian government would announce the names. "There is absolutely no constraint on Jerusalem's attending (the peace conference) within the Jordanian delegation," he commented.

Dr. Shathi, who plans to be present in Madrid in his advisory capacity, said very little of the actual substance of negotiations — other than the broad principles — would be outlined in the opening speeches but the initial days would be important "in setting everybody's agendas and everybody's claims."

"We have to be ready to present our position," Dr. Shathi stated, adding that "we have to put clearly the Palestinian rights and claims at the very outset of that negotiating process." The head of the Palestinian delegation will address the opening session, he added.

Dr. Shathi said the focus of the initial negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis would be the mechanism and timing for transferring "authority" to the Palestinians prior to arriving at a final agreement.

"The start of the bilateral negotiations with Israel will basically discuss the interim period and these negotiations will continue for one whole year, at the end of which, the interim self-government of the Palestinian people starts and the transfer of authority to the Palestinians will take place," Dr. Shathi stated.

Dr. Shathi repeated a statement made by Mr. Arafat Tuesday that the PLO had appointed the Palestinian delegation which was announced by Faisal Husseini and that the PLO would continue to instruct the negotiating team.

"The PLO has in effect chosen the delegates to the peace conference in coordination with the Palestinians in the occupied territories," he said. "It (the PLO) named the delegation that preceded this one that negotiated with Mr. Baker, and the PLO will continue to instruct and negotiate in good faith throughout the negotiating process," Dr. Shathi stressed.

He called on the United States to reopen its dialogue with the PLO, saying that trying to ignore the organization was "a charade."

Dr. Shathi asked how the U.S. could "sponsor such a process that is designed to bring about a lasting peace without having real relations with all the parties."

"The American-PLO dialogue is one way to end that charade and bring everything in the open," Dr. Shathi said, adding that it would strengthen the process for peace and will give America a better chance of assessing all the parties' resolve to go through peace.

Dr. Shathi is expected to remain in Amman for further discussions, including further coordination talks between the Jordanians and the actual Palestinian delegates who are scheduled to arrive here Friday.

Israel wants U.S. assurances

(Continued from page 1)

Foreign Minister David Levy, in an address to the Israeli parliament, assured legislators Israel would not compromise its interests during peace negotiations.

"As we insisted on achieving the best conditions for the opening of negotiations, we will know how to be steadfast on Israel's just interests and positions during them," Mr. Levy said.

Despite its "reservations," the likelihood of the Jewish state pulling out of the Madrid conference seemed remote, Israeli political analysts and Palestinians said.

Israel already knows that the 14-strong team named by Palestinian Faisal Al Hussein Tuesday are fervent but not necessarily discreet supporters of PLO.

"I see the possibility that we will get up and leave... we will not sit with, negotiate with representatives who are connected with the PLO... whether they appear at the beginning of the process or later," an aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said.

"We want an unequivocal guarantee that the Palestinian delegation meets with the parameters agreed between us and the United States," Yossi Alhineir, Mr. Shamir's bureau chief said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker played down the potential row Wednesday saying that all sides in the peace process that he has brokered knew the ground rules.

Those rules, viewed by many Arabs as humiliating, barred the nearly two million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation from choosing delegates from the PLO, Arab East Jerusalem and the Palestinian diaspora.

Announcing the list, the Palestinian delegates themselves turned out of their way not to mention the PLO. But PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat declared in Paris that the delegates were PLO representatives.

Mr. Shamir's spokesman said Gol said Israeli officials were meeting Mr. Baker's staff in Washington seeking clarifications about the Palestinian representation. He said Israel was checking

the list which it had obtained even before Mr. Hussein announced it.

Mr. Shamir met his defence and foreign ministers on Wednesday to prepare the Israeli delegation list.

Mr. Gol refused to comment on Israeli media reports that Mr. Shamir, not just Foreign Minister David Levy, would attend Oct. 30 conference because it would be opened by the U.S. and Soviet presidents.

Mr. Shamir won the battle with Mr. Baker over PLO representation but was irked by what one Israeli official described as the Palestinian device to let the PLO in through the back door.

The delegates include nine supporters of the PLO's Fatah mainstream faction, three communists, one backer of the PLO's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and one independent.

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Connors, Edberg win 1st matches in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Practice partners Jimmy Connors and Stefan Edberg posted straight-set victories Tuesday in their opening matches at the \$1.1 million Stockholm Open Tennis tournament.

Connors, playing his first major indoor tournament after his spectacular march to the semifinals in the U.S. Open early September, beat Martin Jaito 6-3, 7-6 in a first-round match.

Edberg, the world's top-ranked player, downed fellow Swede Peter Lundgren 6-3, 6-4 in the second round. All 16 seeded players received first-round byes in the 48-man draw.

It was the 18th consecutive match victory for Edberg, who captured the Australian Indoors and Tokyo following his first U.S. Open triumph.

A wild-card entry, Connors came from a break down to win the second set in a tiebreaker 7-5 after dominating the Argentine clay court specialist in the opening set.

"I've had a couple of weeks off and if you come back and get a match like this in the beginning it's quite good," said Connors.

The 39-year-old veteran withdrew from last week's ATP Tournament in Lyon, France, because of a neck injury and only started training hard four days ago in California.

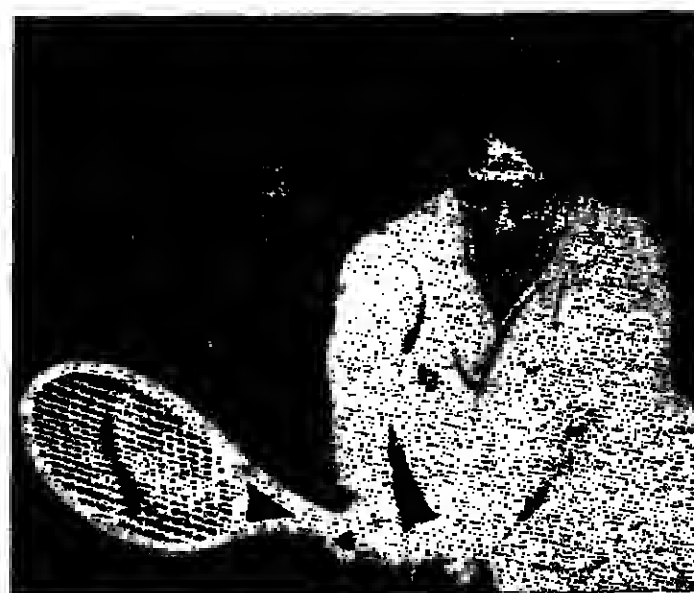
Connors worked out with Edberg at the Globe Arena before his first tournament in Sweden in seven years.

Connors had never played in the Globe, arguably Europe's finest indoor arena. The tournament switched site three years ago from the Royal Tennis Hall, where Connors made the final once in 1975 and was a semifinalist three times in 1976, 1981 and '84.

Connors lost three break points to trail 3-1 in the second set and fell to 3-4 in the seventh game. But the American left-hander broke back immediately and both players held serves the rest of the game.

In the tiebreak, Connors fell behind 3-5. Jaito, normally a baseliner, gambled by coming in to the net but the tactics misfired. Connors got back after a pair of brilliant passes and won it 7-5 on a lucky net-cord bounce.

Edberg, who took last week off to prepare for one of his favorite tournaments, relied on his steady serve-and-volley game against Lundgren.



Jimmy Connors

"But I was quite nervous when I stepped onto the court," said Edberg, who has not played in Sweden since losing last year's final here to Boris Becker.

"I like this tournament almost as much as Wimbledon. It's a special place. I like to do well here. But I had to fight hard to get my first service break tonight."

Edberg, a former two-time winner of the Stockholm Open, has now beaten Lundgren by identical 6-3, 6-4 scores in their last four matches, including the Australian Indoors and Tokyo.

Both came in the second round. In other second-round matches involving seeded players, No. 6 Gny Forget of France beat

Ronald of Haiti 6-3, 6-2; No. 9 Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia overcame Wally Masur of Australia, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4 and No. 12 Goran Ivanisevic of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia outlasted Magnus Larsson of Sweden 7-5, 6-7, 7-5.

Americans Richey Reneberg and Patrick McEnroe won first-round matches in different fashion. Reneberg easily beat Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union 6-4, 6-2 while McEnroe topped Horst Skoff of Austria 6-7, 6-3, 6-3.

Nine players in the top 10 on the ATP rankings, including all four Grand Slam winners this year, are playing in Stockholm this week.

Braves beat Twins 5-4 in 12-inning marathon

ATLANTA (R) — Light-hitting Mark Lemke saved the Atlanta Braves from disaster on Tuesday when he poked a two-out, run-scoring single in the 12th inning for a 5-4 marathon World Series victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Lemke's opposite field single to left brought home a sliding, scrambling David Justice to end the four hour four minute struggle that kept the Braves title hopes burning despite defeats in the first two games of the best-of-seven series.

"I'm completely thrilled," said Lemke, who was mobbed by his teammates after the dramatic finish.

Lemke had nearly been the goat of the game as his error in the top of the 12th inning led to a bases-loaded jam that relief pitcher Jim Clancy rescued.

"He's the original dirt player, the kind of guy who always comes out early just to play catch," Braves manager Bobby Cox said of Lemke.

"He's the kind of player managers are proud of."

Atlanta jumped out to a 4-1 lead by the fifth inning but Minnesota fought back to tie the score on pinch-hitter Chili Davis's two-run home run in the eighth.

Both teams pulled out all the stops in the thriller — the first World Series game ever played in Atlanta.

The Twins used a World Series record 23 players in the game. A record total of 42 players from both sides were used.

The victory kept the Braves from falling behind three games to none, a deficit that has never been overcome in the 87 previous World Series.

The series continues in Atlanta on Wednesday Night with opening-game winner Jack Morris opposing Braves right-hander John Smoltz.

Both teams hit a pair of home runs and both committed an error that led to an unearned run, but the attacks stalled after the score reached 4-4.

Minnesota stranded two players in the eighth inning and left two more men on base in the 10th. And with the help of Lemke's miff of a double-play grounder, the Twins loaded the bases in the 12th.

Having used all his hitters already, Twins skipper Tom Kelly summoned relief ace Rick Aguilera to bat for pitcher Mark Guthrie.

Aguilera, who once hit three homers in a season for his previous employers, the New York Mets, lined out sharply to center, ending the threat.

Atlanta ended their World Series victory drought and an amazing streak by Minnesota relievers in their half of the 12th.

Justice stroked a one-out single to right and one out later stole second. Aguilera pitched around catcher Greg Olson with first

base open and eventually walked him.

That brought up Lemke, a .234 hitter during the season.

But Lemke came through against the Twins ace and snapped a 1991 post-season streak of 28-1/3 consecutive innings without an earned run against Minnesota's relievers.

"It was a terrific ball game," Kelly said. "I felt good about the ball club coming back like they did. I'm not happy we lost, but it was one helluva game."

Atlanta starter Steve Avery, who has been a dominant post-season force, was rolling along again as he retired 15 batters in a row after a catchable leadoff triple led to a run in the first inning.

Pitching with a three-run lead, it appeared to be clear sailing for Avery, winner of seven successive decisions dating back to August.

But the 21-year-old left-hander, named Most Valuable Player of the National League Championship Series for hurling two shutouts, showed signs of weakening in the sixth and yielded a homer to Kirby Puckett in the seventh to make it 4-2.

After Minnesota pinch-hitter

Brian Harper reached first when Terry Pendleton muffed his grounder to third to begin the eighth. Cox summoned his stopper — Alejandro Peña.

That's when Kelly called on his biggest bench weapon, Davis, who was forced out of the starting lineup since the designated hitter is not used in the National League team's park in the series.

Davis made the most of his one at-bat by stroking an opposite field home run to left to knot the score.

Davis's clutch hit ended a streak of 14 saves in 14 opportunities for Peña since coming to Atlanta in a trade with the Mets.

Atlanta had home runs from Justice and Lonnie Smith as they built their 4-1 lead against Twins starter Scott Erickson, who failed to last five innings.

The result made for a happy ending to the Braves' first home World Series game since 1958 when the likes of Warren Spahn and Hank Aaron were starring in Milwaukee. The Braves moved to Atlanta 26 years ago.

Clancy, the sixth Atlanta pitcher, was credited with the win. Aguilera, the seventh pitcher used by Minnesota, was the loser.

Seles in trouble again

BRIGHTON, England (AP) — Monica Seles in trouble with tennis officials again, and this time she has some company.

Seles, who was fined for skipping Wimbledon this summer and banned from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics for missing the Federation Cup, will be fined \$20,000 for playing in an exhibition event this week in Spain.

Eleven other players in the event will be fined up to \$10,000, Georgina Clark, director of European Operations for the Women's Tennis Association, said Tuesday.

Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf, who places second to Seles in the world rankings, believes that's not enough.

"There should definitely be another zero on the end at least," said the German, who is the only player in the world's top ten competing in this week's WTA event at Brighton, England.

Promoters of exhibition events often pay player's fines to attract them to their events.

"I think if it were a hundred thousands dollars every promoter would think about it. But they can always put up \$10,000. I don't think twenty thousand is a big difference either."

"I play very very few exhibitions. I don't really see the need of it," Graf said. "You should support the tournaments."

Pam Shriver, who is WTA president, called for suspensions. "My personal feeling is that we should do more than hit them in their pocket books. I'm in favour of suspensions," said Shriver who is also playing at Brighton.

"But you have to find a balance because you don't want to punish the tour events. You hope that you never have to suspend anyone."

Shriver criticised Seles' action. "She's definitely marching to a different drummer and making up her own rules," the American said. "She is the one who's making most people upset."

Aranza Sanchez Vicario will be fined \$10,000 for playing in Las Palmas, while Conchita Martinez and Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere will receive a \$5,000

penalty.

Under WTA rules, players are not permitted to compete in an exhibition event that conflicts with a Women's Tour event worth more than \$225,000 in prize money. The women's event this week in Brighton has a total purse of \$350,000.

Seles and other players were similarly fined this summer for playing in an exhibition event in Mahwah, U.S. instead of playing in a tour event.

Brighton Tournament Director George Hendon said he will seek tougher penalties against players who pass up tour events to play in lucrative exhibitions.

Hendon said we will appeal for tougher penalties at a meeting of the Women's International Professional Tennis Council in November.

"I represent all the European tournaments at the council meeting and I will certainly bring this matter up at the meeting and I will be calling for tougher rules," he said.

Seles was a losing finalist at the Brighton tournament two years ago and asked for a wild card to be held until last Friday in case she decided on a last-minute entry.

Meanwhile Graf reached the second round of the \$350,000 Brighton Women's Indoor Tournament Tuesday despite a nagging injury to her right wrist that will put her out of action for the two week's from Sunday.

Graf came back from 2-5 down in a first set tiebreak to defeat the aggressive serve-and-volley play of 156th ranked Katrina Adams of the United States 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 in her opening match of the tournament.

In other matches, second seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria advanced 6-4, 6-3 over Petra Langrova of Czechoslovakia and 5th seeded Austrian Barbara Paulus ousted Nicole Jagerman of the Netherlands 7-5, 6-2.

"I will have pain in my wrist until I take some time off from playing," Graf said. "It's really not that bad, I'm getting used to it."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Holyfield's promoter: Tyson fight off

NEW YORK (AP) — Evander Holyfield won't be meeting Mike Tyson before February, according to Holyfield's promoter. They might not meet at all. Originally scheduled to defend his undisputed heavyweight title on Nov. 8 against Tyson, Holyfield now is looking to meet an unspecified opponent later that month. The Holyfield-Tyson bout, expected to be the richest in boxing history, was postponed when the former champion sustained a rib injury during training. "We were unable to find a date in January to reschedule the Holyfield-Tyson fight that would be acceptable to all parties," Dan Duva said Tuesday after meetings with representatives of TVKO and Caesars Palace and with Doo King, Tyson's promoter.

Kasparov extends lead in Tilburg

TILBURG, Netherlands (R) — World champion Garry Kasparov unveiled a startling opening to slice through Viswanathan Anand's Sicilian defence extending his lead in the Interpolis Tilburg Chess Tournament. The Soviet grandmaster was in sparkling form in the fifth round, playing an innovative central pawn advance on move 12 of the Pausen variation of the Sicilian. The 21-year-old Indian grandmaster used 35 minutes puzzling over his next two moves, but finally sacrificed a knight for two central pawns to blunt Kasparov's impending attack. Two moves later Kasparov stunned onlookers by offering a bishop to establish a dominant position for his knights in the centre. After four more moves Kasparov made another sacrifice, tearing the heart of Anand's king-side pawns by giving up a rook for a knight. Anand was left with his king trapped behind an unstable mass of central pawns that could barely move and offered little protection. He resigned on move 29, unable to parry all the threats to his king.

Tour de France goes European

PARIS (R) — Next year's Tour De France will make a major detour from tradition by virtually bypassing the Pyrenees and visiting six of France's European neighbours. Announcing the route for the 1992 race Tuesday, tour director Jean-Marie Leblanc sent a shockwave through the cycling establishment with an itinerary which amounts to a revolution. Apart from one pass, the tour will bypass the Pyrenees for the first time since 1910 after starting out on July 4 from the Basque Port of San Sebastian in Spain. When it finishing 22 days, 21 stages and 3,830 kms later in

Paris, it will have passed through five more countries — Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg and Italy. Leblanc said the decision to export the tour was a symbolic gesture towards European unity in the year the European Community opens its frontiers.

China hauls 24 gold medals

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — China exceeded even their own expectations when they won 24 gold medals at the Asian Athletics Championships which ended Wednesday. China also won 11 silvers and two bronzes for a total medals tally of 37, way ahead of second placed Japan who took four gold, seven silver and 12 bronze medals. "Our target was 22 golds and I am very pleased we exceeded that," said Zhang Shi Han, deputy leader of the Chinese Athletics Federation. But he added: "There is still room for improvement ahead of next year's Olympics." The Chinese team won 11 golds on the track and 13 from field events.

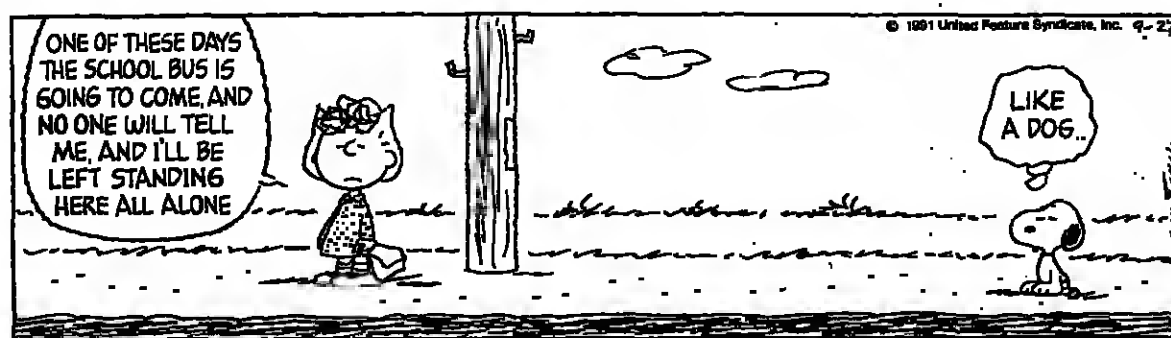
Huber pulls out of Brighton tournament

BRIGHTON, England (R) — German Anke Huber, 16-year-old conqueror of Martina Navratilova in the Filderstadt Indoor final Sunday, has pulled out of the Brighton Women's Tennis Tournament. Organisers said she was suffering from flu.

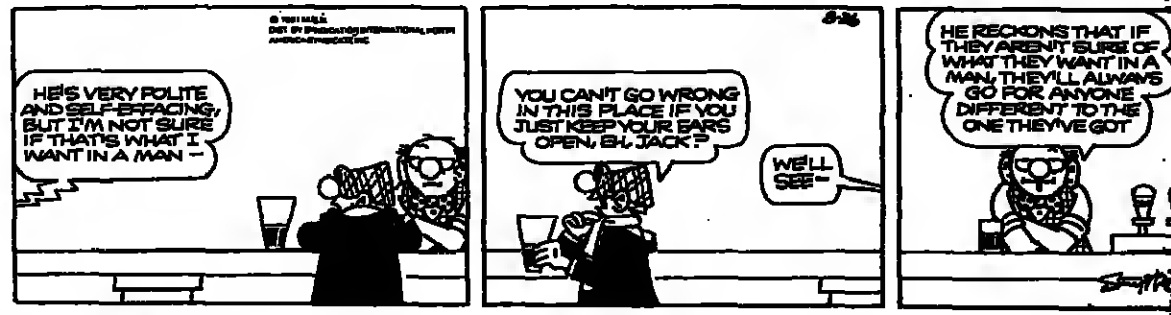
Stich, Edberg top Grand Slam Cup field

NEW YORK (R) — Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany and U.S. Open champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden have agreed to play in December's \$6 million Munich Grand Slam Cup Tennis Tournament, the director of the event said. Tournament director Bill Dennis said in a telephone interview from Salisbury, Maryland, that three other Americans — French Open champion Jim Courier, former French Open winner Michael Chang and Wimbledon semifinalist David Wheaton — have accepted a berth in the 16-player field for the December 10-15 event in Munich. Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia also has entered the chase for the sport's biggest winter check of \$2 million. Last year's winner, American Pete Sampras, and compatriot runner-up Brad Gilbert did not qualify this year. Qualification for the tournament is based on results at each of the year's four Grand Slam events — the Australian, French and U.S. Opens and Wimbledon. The qualifiers have until October 31st to accept a berth according to Dennis.

Peanuts



Andy Capp

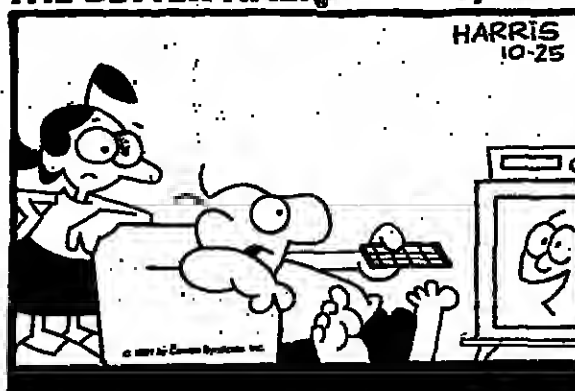


Mutt'n'Jeff



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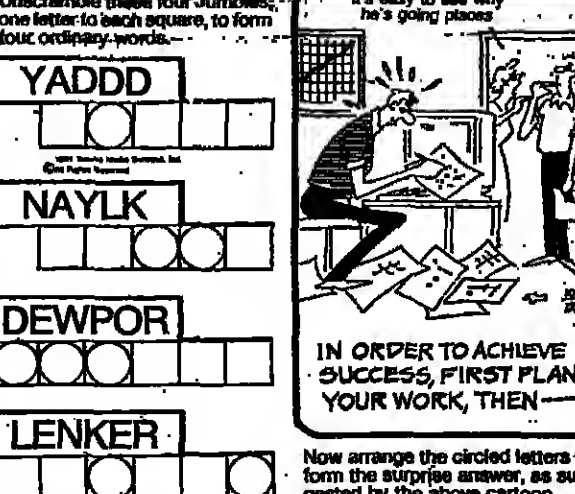
THE BETTER HALF.



Answer here: YOUR

Yesterday's Jumbles: METAL DEITY PYTHON MAKEUP
Answer: What there was at the end of a successful season — A HAPPY MEDIUM

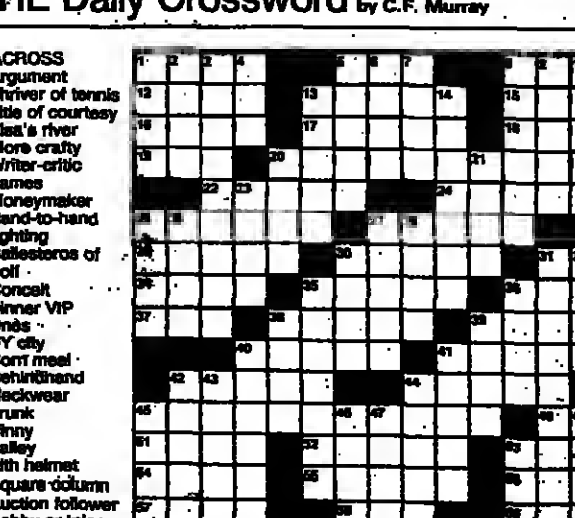
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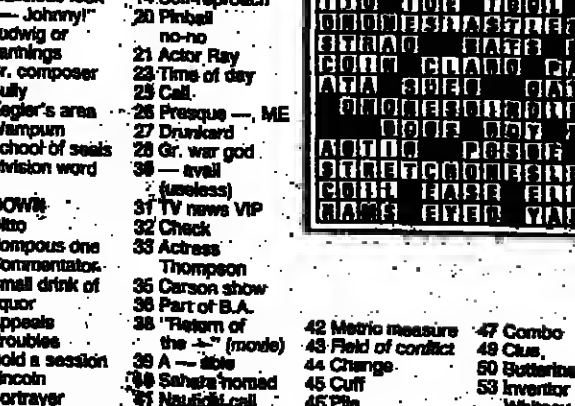
Yesterday's Jumbles: METAL DEITY PYTHON MAKEUP
Answer: What there was at the end of a successful season — A HAPPY MEDIUM

THE Daily Crossword



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Puzzle Solver:



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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PLAY OR DEFEND?

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 9 7 5
♥ 5 2
♦ A Q 10
♣ J 8 4

WEST
♠ A Q 8 2
♥ A 8 7 3
♦ 7
♣ K Q 10 2

EAST
♠ 10 6 4 3
♥ Void
♦ 8 6 5 4 2
♣ A 9 6 3

SOUTH
♠ Void
♥ K Q J 10 9 6 4
♦ K J 9 3
♣ 7 5

The bidding:
South West North East
4♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

We'll give you an edge that you won't get at the table. Study all four hands and then decide whether, after West leads the king of clubs, you would rather play or defend a contract of four hearts by South.

South's hand was worth an opening bid of four hearts at any vulnerability. There are six playing tricks in the trump suit, and the diamond holding is worth a length trick as well as one on power.

Let's suppose you choose to play four hearts. If, after the king of clubs wins as East signals encouragement

with the nine, West were to continue with a club, you would have an easy path to 10 tricks. You would win any continuation and lead the king of hearts, and the ace would be the defender's third and last trick.

A more enterprising defense would be for West to shift to a diamond at trick two. If declarer wins and routinely goes about extracting trumps, the defenders will prevail. West can win the ace of hearts on the first or second round of trumps, get to East with the ace of clubs and score a diamond ruff to scuttle the contract.

However, don't bet too much on being able to defeat the game. A fine declarer can foil even your best efforts.

Obviously, West's shift to a diamond is, more than likely, a singleton. If West has more than one trump and East the ace, South is fighting a lost cause. The only hope is that West holds both major-suit aces. Declarer must win the diamond in dummy and lead the king of spades at trick three. If East fails to cover, South must not ruff; instead, declarer discards the remaining club. As the cards lie, there is now no way for East to gain the lead to give West a diamond ruff. Declarer can go about forcing out the ace of trumps and raking in 10 tricks.

Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 22/10/91	TOKYO CLOSE 23/10/91
Sterling Pound*	1.7100	1.7055
Deutsche Mark	1.6980	1.7032
Swiss Franc	1.4829	1.4878
French Franc	5.7920	5.8103**
Japanese Yen	151.28	151.45
European Currency Unit	1.2055	1.2021**

USD Per STD
* European Opening for 8:30 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.31	5.37	5.42
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.25	10.12	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.72	9.31	9.31	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.25	8.18	8.06
French Franc	9.00	9.12	9.18	9.25
Japanese Yen	6.50	6.25	5.87	5.62
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.81	9.81	9.81

Interest rate bid rates for money exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*
Gold	365.00	7.05	Silver	4.16	0.093

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6880
Sterling Pound	1.1696	1.1754
Deutsche Mark	0.4026	0.4046
Swiss Franc	0.4609	0.4632
French Franc	0.1181	0.1187
Japanese Yen	0.5219	0.5245
Dutch Guilder	0.3571	0.3590
Swedish Krona	0.1105	0.1111
Italian Lira*	0.0538	0.0541
Belgian Franc	0.01966	0.01976

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7890	1.7950
Lebanese Lira*	0.0774	0.0777
Saudi Riyal	0.1826	0.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	0.1868	0.1870
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7650
UAE Dirham	0.1862	0.1870
Greek Drachma*	0.3640	0.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4525	1.4650

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	21/10/91	Close	22/10/91	Close
All-Share	123.82		124.07	
Banking Sector	104.77		105.24	
Insurance Sector	125.03		125.11	
Industry Sector	152.70		152.72	
Services Sector	132.71		132.24	

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7060/70	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1285/90	Canadian dollar
	1.7030/40	Deutsche marks
	1.9190/9200	Dutch guilders
	1.4865/75	Swiss francs
	35.07/11	Belgian francs
	5.8075/25	French francs
	1272/1273	Italian lire
	131.30/40	Japanese yen
	6.2070/25	Swedish crowns
	6.6740/90	Norwegian crowns
	6.5900/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	362.75/363.25	U.S. dollars

End of Japan curbs delights South Africa business, angers blacks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African business Tuesday hailed the lifting of sanctions by Japan but the black anti-apartheid opposition denounced it as "a slap in the face."

Analysts said the move could lead to the opening of air links within months and boost South African exports of raw materials and imports of motor parts and electronic goods.

But Ken Ironside, an executive of Barlow Rand Ltd, the country's biggest industrial concern, said he expected Japan to resume direct investment only when political violence abated.

"Frankly until the violence is resolved we can't see major flows," Mr. Ironside said in a telephone interview.

Graham Limerick of the South African Foreign Trade Organisation said Japan's lifting of bans on investment, imports of iron and steel and a suspension of air links could bring joint venture capital but little direct investment.

"Short-term we see more money coming in on a joint venture basis, for example with South African companies on projects in southern Africa, than on a direct investment basis," he said.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) said it regretted Tokyo's move and the allied Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the country's largest labour federation, called the ending of the curbs premature and opportunistic.

"It will be seen as a slap in the face for the majority of our people," said the million strong, mainly black COSATU.

It said the move would "bedevil future economic relations between Japan and a post-apartheid South Africa."

The Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO), advocate of black pride philosophy, said Tokyo's move would strengthen the hand of minority whites against the voteless black majority.

"Japan has always been delinquent with sanctions," said AZAPO President Pandelani Nefolohwe, adding that Japan had applied the main curbs only

under strong anti-apartheid pressure.

ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma said his movement would hold talks with other Asian states to ensure they did not follow Japan's lead, but Mr. Limerick said the ANC would have an uphill task in countries like Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

"With Japan back in, the pressure from Asian businessmen on their governments will be intense," Mr. Limerick said.

He said the move would reverse a three-year-old decline in the proportion of total South African foreign trade done with Asia, which stood at 28 per cent against the low 30s in 1988.

Japan was South Africa's third largest trade partner in 1989, International Monetary Fund figures show.

South African exports to Japan of raw materials including coal and agricultural products are worth about 1.5 billion, while imports mainly of motorcar components, machinery and electronic goods stand at about \$1.8 billion.

Raymond Parsons, director-general of the South African Chamber of Business, said Tokyo's move "represents a major breakthrough in the further normalisation of South Africa's external economic relations."

"A new world is opening for South Africa in the Far East," said Foreign Minister Pik Botha. He wanted business to trade with, "the awakening Asian giant, with Japan as the leader."

Japan's decision capped a spate of good news for the sanctions-bled economy. Commonwealth leaders meeting in Harare agreed to phase out sanctions, starting with a resumption of tourism, cultural, sporting and academic exchanges.

Australia's national airline Qantas said Tuesday the 50-nation bloc's decision had paved the way for a resumption of air links by the end of the year.

Steelmaker and iron ore producer ISCOR Ltd, resuming trade with six Japanese steelmakers after a three-year break, said it had signed a five-year deal to supply 20 million tonnes of ore.

Astro to start Bahrain, UAE flights next month

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Astro Airlines, a local airline, announced Wednesday it would begin commercial flights to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in November.

A company spokesman said the twice-weekly flights to Bahrain would begin Nov. 7 and three-time-a-week service to Abu Dhabi would start Nov. 21.

Astro, a Filipino-American joint venture, is the second local airline to operate a commercial

passenger service aside from the state-owned Philippine Airlines.

The airline began operating in 1973, primarily to ferry supplies to troops fighting Muslim insurgents in southern Philippines, the spokesman said. It temporarily stopped operations in 1986 but resumed in 1991 to help ferry stranded Filipino workers home during the Middle East crisis.

Its Middle East flights initially will operate as advance booked charters, the spokesman said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks drifted in listless trade to close weaker but off the day's lows. Profit-taking, softer bond prices and weaker yen helped bring the Nikkei average down 154.72 points, or 0.62 per cent, to end at 24,799.94.

ZURICH — Swiss shares ended a lively session firmer with chemicals leading the market higher after activity had centred on banks and insurers. The All-Share Swiss Performance Index rose 3.7 points to 1,096.7.

PARIS — Traders reported a lack of enthusiasm on the Paris bourse, where the CAC Index of 40 leading shares dropped after mid-session marginal gains to end 6.43 points lower at 1,830.36.

LONDON — British shares closed slightly up after mirroring Wall Street's ups and downs towards the end of a listless trading day. The Financial Times-Stock Exchange Index of 100 leading shares gained 1.6 points to finish at 2,561.1.

NEW YORK — U.S. Blue Chips posted moderate gains at midday but the broad market was flat as some investors continued to take profits from last week's gains. At 1648 GMT the Dow Jones Industrial average was up 3.58 points at 3,043.38.

EC, EFTA conclude landmark agreement

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The European Community (EC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) concluded a landmark accord Tuesday creating a free trade zone of 19 nations stretching from Iceland to the Mediterranean as of 1993.

Under the hard-woo accord, the 12 EC states extend their 1992 single market benefits to the seven EFTA states — Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Austria — creating a "European economic area" of 380 million consumers.

After a final negotiating round of more than 15 hours, Finnish Foreign Trade Minister Pertti Salolainen called it "an unprecedented agreement."

The EC-EFTA agreement grants mutual access to the EC and EFTA markets making the European Economic Area "the largest, most integrated economic area in the world," he told reporters.

Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, whose country has applied to join the EC in parallel to the EC-EFTA talks, expressed "deep satisfaction" with the accord. "It is an important building block in the construction of a new Europe," he said after talks at the EC head office in Brussels.

Sixty per cent of EFTA's trade is with the EC and a quarter of the EC's is with EFTA. Two-way trade between the blocs exceeds \$220 billion a year.

EC External Relations Commissioner Frans Andriessen said, "this is an important moment for the EC, for EFTA and for the construction of Europe."

The accord sets up almost a dozen panels through which the EC and EFTA will consult on the functioning of their agreement.

They will also create a court to settle disputes.

The idea of an EC-EFTA agreement was first launched in 1989 by EC Commission President Jacques Delors who saw in it a way to draw the EFTA nations closer to the EC without having them join the community. Traditionally, the EFTA nations have preferred to stay outside the community.

But since then, two EFTA nations — Austria and Sweden — have formally applied to join the community and others are expected to follow suit in the years ahead.

Peugeot to sell cars directly in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Peugeot of France is to become the first foreign car manufacturer to sell its cars directly to the Algerian public, the company's managing director Yves Barbe has said.

"We are at the end of the road. In a few weeks Algerians will be able to buy Peugeot cars directly," Mr. Barbe said at a news conference.

The Peugeot-Algeria company set up to import and distribute its products hopes to sell 12,000 vehicles once agreement on price is reached in the next few days with the Algerian monetary authorities, he said.

Private Peugeot agents will be appointed at shops of the former state group Entreprise Nationale de Production de Vehicules Particuliers taken over by Peugeot.

Algerians will be able to buy Peugeots and spares with Algerian dinars.

Baghdad promises cheap food, rounds up profiteers

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government promised Wednesday it was sending huge quantities of cheap food to shops stripped bare in panic buying.

The government media said meat, chicken and eggs were on their way to government shops where the controlled prices are about one quarter of those on a nervous free market.

Newspapers said the authorities had rounded up a gang which made a killing when rumours of more shortages pushed prices up and cleared stock out of both government and private shops.

"They will be transferred to the concerned authority to be punished," reported Al Thawra, published by the ruling Baath Party. It gave no further details.

The newspaper Bahil said shops run by the trade unions were receiving foodstuffs such as tea, rice, sugar, tomato paste and lentils for sale at government prices.

It criticised the "unpatriotic conduct of some profiteers who have no concern for the country's interest."

The Trade Ministry will provide citizens with red meat through government shops in the next few days... chickens will be distributed to people covered by the ration system," Al Thawra said.

Queues formed at government shops at midday for the monthly rations of sugar, rice, flour, tea, meat and chicken to which state employees are entitled.

But even when these shops are stocked, they meet only about one third of basic needs, leaving

families dependent upon the market place, where demand usually outstrips supply.

"I spent two hours looking for tomatoes," grumbled a senior government official with years of foreign service. "I haven't found any since the rumours."

The rumours varied wildly but the one version said the United Nations was tightening trade sanctions on Iraq after President Saddam said in a weekend speech that his nation could endure the embargo for 20 years.

Another version said U.N. personnel would make house-to-house searches for stocks of goods excluded from the U.N. sanctions list to judge how well the embargo was working.

The sanctions, imposed in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, allow Iraq to import without question wheat, rice, sugar, tea and cooking oil but not meat, poultry or dairy products, the items most in demand at present.

President Saddam says the sanctions have turned his nation of 18 million people into a U.N. trusteeship, strangled by red tape and with no control over its own economy.

Prices in the markets surged by at least a third over the weekend and there was a run on basic foodstuffs, which were already in short supply.

Residents said prices had eased a little since the weekend but there were still shortages of meat, vegetables and fruit at reasonable prices.

A case of 35 cans of soft drink which sold for 40 dinars last week

was selling this week at exactly double, 80 dinars or half the average monthly wage.

Currency conversions have little meaning in Iraq. Goods are expensive at the official rate — \$3.1 to the dinar — and apparently cheap at the volatile black market rate.

But the recent rises in government salaries, which once made Iraqis among the wealthiest Arabs outside the Gulf, have fallen way behind the cost of living.

The black market for hard currencies fluctuated with the severity of the rumours. A dollar fetched eight dinars one week ago, up to 13 at the weekend at the height of the panic and down to around 10 Wednesday, traders said.

All foreign exchange transactions outside state banks are technically illegal and punishable by long prison terms.

Traders with access to foreign exchange can use it to import food duty free. This has given them more power over the domestic economy. A trader with a 60-dinar carton of cigarettes last week could double his money by selling it on the street Wednesday.

The panic buying brought home to Iraqis the parlous state of their nation's economy.

The government says it does not have the money to import all the food and drugs it needs and an authoritative international study published Tuesday said infant mortality had risen fourfold because of malnutrition and medical shortages.

Cuba anticipates further drop in living standards

HAVANA, Cuba (R) — Cuba's ruling Communist Party, citing uncertainty over future economic ties with the Soviet Union, has said the island's economic crisis could worsen and its people should be prepared for a possible further drop in living standards.

The blunt warning was contained in economic policy guidelines approved during a party congress in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba.

The official party newspaper Granma published the economic resolution in full.

Uncertainty over Cuba's future economic relations with the Soviet Union, for three decades the island's main supplier, meant it was possible the island's economic situation, already characterised by widespread shortages of everything from food to fuel, could get worse, the document said.

"These conditions would inevitably produce extraordinarily serious effects on the economy, like lower electricity generation, bigger reductions in transport, the paralysis of important economic and social activities and a bigger reduction in the people's standard of living," it added.

The resolution said Cuba's imports had been cut by half as a result of the virtual disappearance of trade with former allies in eastern Europe and serious disruptions to supplies from the Soviet Union. Together these countries had accounted for 85 per cent of the island's foreign trade.

The Soviet Union had sharply reduced the price it paid for Cuban sugar, meaning Cuba could buy fewer Soviet goods. Soviet financial credits had also dwindled and Cuba was receiving a quarter less Soviet oil than previously, the document said.

It added that supplies of a large group of important products from the Soviet Union were hit by non-deliveries, delays and uncertainty.

The document proposed that

the nation's efforts and resources be concentrated in a number of priority initiatives.

It mentioned a national food self-sufficiency programme, the development of tourism, attracting foreign investment and promoting hard currency-earning new Cuban exports in fields like biotechnology and genetic engineering.

"We must achieve a strong export drive and make our goods and services really competitive," the resolution added.

But internally, this would mean "inevitably restricting, in an organised and fair way, levels of popular consumption and economic activity in different areas."

Cuban President Fidel Castro, facing rising discontent over food shortages, urged more efficiency in state farming but ruled out introducing a free market.

He told the congress that widespread shortages of food, especially fresh vegetables, and a growing black market did not justify authorising the free sale of farm produce to the public by individual growers.

"That would sow corruption and demoralisation, I'm convinced of that," President Castro told the congress.

The debate on the food crisis was one of the most sensitive issues raised by the nearly 1,800 delegates as they discussed economic policies for the island, fighting to survive as one of the world's last orthodox communist states.

President Castro said he favoured maintaining the current farming system, under which the state was wholly responsible for buying and collecting produce from state farms and individual growers and distributing it to the public.



Fidel Castro

"We've got to improve collection," he said. He was referring to repeated criticism of the state's transport and distribution of fruit and vegetables, which often arrive at state shops in poor condition and in grossly insufficient quantities.

President Castro reminded the delegates that Cuba was in the midst of a tight austerity programme — officially termed a "special period in time of peace" — which had put the economy on a virtual war footing. "And so are we, a socialist country, in the middle of a special period, going to start inventing market mechanisms, putting things on to a free basis?" he asked.

The government has launched a food self-sufficiency programme involving the mobilisation of thousands of city dwellers to work in the fields, spearheaded by special work brigades known as "contingents."

President Castro, 65, scornfully rejected Western-style multi-party politics as "complete rubbish" and said he was convinced that Cuba's one-party system was the most democratic in the world.

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Yugoslav army pounds Dubrovnik

ZAGREB (R) — Yugoslav Armed Forces pounded the Adriatic port of Dubrovnik overnight after threatening decisive military action in Croatia, the rebel republic's radio said Wednesday.

Croatian Radio said federal navy gunboats unleashed a fierce barrage of shells on the outskirts of Dubrovnik, killing at least one civilian and wounding two others.

Several houses and cars were destroyed on the Babin Kuk peninsula five kilometres north of the historic city, it said. The reception area and bar of the Dubrovnik Palas, one of the most popular hotels in the region, was hit.

On the southern side, the army has moved to about five kilometres from the centre of Dubrovnik's medieval town after cutting it off from the world in a three-week siege.

The besieged town of Vukovar in northeast Croatia also came under mortar attack during the night, but Tanjug News Agency said it was quiet in central Croatia where snow and rain have tempered fighting.

At least 31 people have been killed since a ceasefire announced Saturday by Croatian forces and the Serb-led federal army, which

backs Serbs in Croatia rebelling against the republic's independence declaration on June 25.

Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic angrily criticised the European Community (EC) Tuesday. He rejected an EC peace plan for Yugoslavia and said he was mobilising more troops to intensify the fight against Croatia.

Moving the army squarely to centre stage in the four-month-old crisis, he said: "In the view of the army the time has come to take clear, decisive, coordinated and adequate political and military actions."

Gen. Kadijevic said he wanted immediately to call up more reservists to join the fight. Serbia and its three allies approved the proposal at a meeting of the eight-man Yugoslav presidency boycotted by Croatia and three other republics.

Western diplomats expressed concern that Gen. Kadijevic's tough talk could foreshadow an all-out assault on Dubrovnik, Vukovar and other Croatian towns before Yugoslavia's harsh winter sets in and military activity stops until the spring.

It will certainly cast a cloud over the EC peace conference in the Hague Friday, at which the

Netherlands has said a plan to make Yugoslavia a loose federation of republics will be fleshed out.

But Gen. Kadijevic said: "Such a proposal would not solve the crisis, but lead only to a continuation of the conflicts and terrible bloodshed."

More than 1,000 Croats, and an unknown number of soldiers and Serbian fighters, have been killed since Yugoslavia's second largest republic declared its independence.

Gen. Kadijevic made his remarks at a meeting of the collective state presidency, which was again boycotted by Croatia. The presidency is now in effect run by a Serbian bloc, which is close to the Serb-led federal army.

The EC is trying to prevent the crisis erupting into a full civil war among the many rival ethnic groups and religions in the country of 23.5 million people.

The community has 200 peace observers in Yugoslavia, and the 10th EC-brokered ceasefire since June went into effect Saturday, with no better success than the previous efforts.

Gen. Kadijevic blasted the EC and other foreign powers which, he said, wanted to tear apart the

country set up in 1918 to serve their own interests in the region.

He reserved his most scathing comments for Germany, saying only the politically blind could fail to see who was behind the break-up of Yugoslavia.

"Very openly and with great impudence," he said, "Germany is attacking this country for the third time in this century."

Germany fought the kingdom of Serbia in World War I and occupied Yugoslavia in World War II, setting up a Nazi puppet state in Croatia.

Since Croatia and Slovenia declared independence from Yugoslavia last June, Germany has pushed for international recognition of the declarations and blamed Serbia and the federal army for the fighting in Croatia.

Meanwhile, Albania's parliament has recognised the Yugoslav province of Kosovo as an independent republic, the Albanian News Agency (ATA) reported Tuesday.

The move follows an unofficial referendum last month in Kosovo, a predominantly ethnic Albanian region, which organisers said showed almost unanimous support for independence.

U.S. ready to start ties with Vietnam

PARIS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday the United States was ready to begin normalising relations with Vietnam, 16 years after the end of the Vietnam War.

Mr. Baker told reporters before meeting Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam in Paris he expected talks on normalisation to begin within a month.

The United States is prepared to begin discussions with Vietnam concerning the issues and modalities that would be involved in normalising relations with Vietnam," Mr. Baker said.

But he stressed that "the scope and pace of these discussions are governed by the degree to which Vietnam continues to cooperate with the United States on the very, very important issue of its prisoners of war and missing in action."

The United States withdrew from Vietnam in 1973 after an unsuccessful battle to sustain a non-Communist South Vietnam. Two years later, North Vietnamese forces swept into Saigon (now Ho-Chi-Minh City), ending the South's resistance.

Some 55,000 American soldiers died in a decade of fighting and Washington lists 2,300 cases of American servicemen believed to be either missing in action or taken prisoner.

The United States last April outlined a four-phase process for normalising ties with Vietnam that would start with formal discussions between the two governments after the signing of a Cambodia peace treaty.

Mr. Baker said: "It is our intention to remain true to our word with respect to ... that pathway approach."

The United States has also said that after the Cambodian accord was signed, it would lift a trade embargo against Cambodia as part of a new effort to improve relations with all of South East Asia.

In the second phase, beginning with a ceasefire and establishment of a United Nations transitional administration in Cambodia, Washington plans a partial lifting of its economic embargo against Vietnam.

Ukraine denies seeking to be nuclear power

MOSCOW (R) — The Ukraine, second most powerful of the Soviet republics, said Wednesday it had already started building its own armed forces but denied it had "nationalised" Soviet nuclear weapons on its soil.

"There are no grounds for panic... of course there will be no separate Ukrainian nuclear weapons," Vladimir Grinyov, deputy head of the Ukrainian parliament, said by telephone from Kiev.

"We will include ourselves in a joint command of nuclear weapons," he added. "Nuclear weapons are not being nationalised."

The Ukraine declared independence from Moscow immediately after a failed hardline Soviet coup in August, and its 52 million people are expected to back secession in a referendum on Dec. 1.

Its breakaway moves have aroused Western concern about the future of Soviet strategic and tactical nuclear weapons in the Ukraine. The republic says it wants to scrap these arms, but only after international negotiations.

"The Ukraine aspires to be a non-nuclear state. That is its goal and we are in no way altering this position," Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Vesolovsky said.

"While these nuclear forces are on our territory they are under joint control. Our goal is to fulfil all agreements signed by the former Soviet Union on the issue. We are going to destroy these nuclear forces through a process of negotiations with all nuclear powers."

The Ukraine took a major step towards making its independence a reality when parliament voted in principle Tuesday to create its own army, navy and air force with a combined strength of some 420,000 men.

Asked how quickly the new military force would be created, Mr. Grinyov replied: "Its formation has already begun. We have a Defence Ministry, a structure and a plan."

Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstantin Morozov told the newspaper Narodnyy Armiya in an interview Wednesday that the republic was claiming jurisdiction over "all military units" on its territory on the basis of parliamentary resolutions.

He said Soviet Defence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov had alternated between complete rejection of Ukrainian plans and willingness to discuss a "defence union."

"Unfortunately these proposals have not gone any further and no practical steps have been taken," Mr. Morozov said.

Mr. Grinyov, the deputy Ukrainian leader, appeared to take a milder stance. He said the republic was not nationalising Soviet Armed Forces but wanted control over their movements on its soil.

"There should be no movement of forces without our agreement," he said.

The future of the nuclear-armed Black Sea Fleet based in Sevastopol, a Crimean port, would be decided by negotiation with Russia and the Soviet authorities, Mr. Grinyov added.

A Soviet Defence Ministry spokesman said Moscow wanted to preserve a single central command over nuclear weapons.

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Nigerian wins literary award

LONDON (AP) — Nigerian writer Ben Okri won the prestigious Booker Prize for his third novel, *The Famished Road*. Announcing the winner of the £20,000 (\$34,400) literary prize at a dinner at London's Guildhall, the judges praised Mr. Okri's "vigor, ambition and... mastery of control of the worlds of fantasy and the everyday." Other nominees for the prize were William Trevor for *Reading Turgenev*, Timothy Mo for *The Redundancy of Courage*, Martin Amis for *Time's Arrow*, Rohinton Mistry for *Such a Long Journey*, and Roddy Doyle for *The Van*.

Mr. Okri, 31, who lives and works in London, was born and educated in Lagos. He said he was dedicating his prize "to all those who struggle and suffer in silence and in public, and who never stop fighting and always keep on dreaming." Holding the check aloft, he said he was "extremely delighted" to have won.

When his first novel was published, he said, his father gathered the elders of his town together and a collection was held to buy Mr. Okri a pen. "This will help me to buy quite a lot of pens," he joked.

Lords rule that a man can be guilty of raping his wife

LONDON (R) — The House of Lords, the highest court of appeal, overturned a centuries-old principle of English law Wednesday that there is no such thing as rape in marriage. The lords supported an earlier appeal court ruling that the principle that an Englishman could not be guilty of raping his wife was "an anachronistic and offensive fiction." Five law lords — peers of the realm who sit in the House of Lords (parliament's upper chamber) — made Wednesday's historic final judgment confirming the wife's right to say "no." They dismissed a last appeal by a man who was jailed for three years for trying to rape his estranged wife.

Lord Keith said that a statement in 1736 by Chief Justice Hale that by marriage a wife gave her body and irrevocable consent to sex with her husband under all circumstances "was quite unacceptable in modern times."

Woman lands plane after pilot dies

SHANIKO, Oregon (AP) — A woman in the back seat of a single-engine airplane reached over the body of her father, who died of an apparent heart attack at the controls, and landed the plane at a small airstrip, authorities said. Patty Sharp, 23, had never flown a plane before. "For someone to have absolutely no flying experience and the circumstances she was under, she was very, very lucky," Wasco County Sheriff's Sgt. Charles Butler said. Ms. Sharp and her father, Patrick Sharp, 62, had taken off in the Piper Cub for a day of sightseeing and photography Saturday in eastern Oregon.

She was talking to her father when he slumped over. She reached over his body to grab the controls, she said. "I can't imagine how she had any rudder control," Butler said. Rudder, which steers a plane, are foot-controlled.

Orchestra row brings down curtain at Covent Garden

LONDON (R) — London's Covent Garden closed its doors temporarily Monday over a pay row with the members of its orchestra. "The Royal Opera House announced with great regret that from Tuesday Oct. 22 all performances by the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden have been cancelled until further notice," a statement said. The 120 musicians at Covent Garden want a pay rise. To make their point they refused to turn up in their usual evening dress but wore jeans and played in jeans and t-shirts. They also demanded an interval between every act in Meyerbeer's five-act *L'elisir d'amour*, due to open Thursday. Four intervals instead of one might increase the takings at the bar but, by adding another hour to the opera's running time, it would mean the orchestra would have to be paid overtime. The management responded by telling the musicians that if they did not turn up for a rehearsal Monday and work normally they had better not turn up at all. The orchestra met at the weekend and voted overwhelmingly not to comply. On Monday morning they stayed away, a spokesman for the Musicians' Union said.

Indian quake toll passes 1,000

LUCKNOW, India (R) — More than 1,000 people are now known to have died in an earthquake that devastated large parts of the Himalayan foothills in north India, officials said Wednesday.

They said hundreds of soldiers and paramilitary troops aided by civilian volunteers had dug 1,057 bodies from the shattered remains of mountain villages near the Indo-Tibetan border in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The search for more bodies was continuing and the toll was likely to increase.

But the officials said many remote villages appeared to have emerged relatively unscathed from the earthquake that struck Sunday night when most people were asleep.

They said military helicopters surveying the high hills — in between ferrying supplies to

areas cut off by landslides and reported many villages were relatively intact.

Some 400 villages are scattered across the hills north of the regional centre of Uttar Pradesh, some 300 kilometres from Delhi. Officials had feared they would discover huge numbers of corpses in them. But the helicopter crews reported that although the villages surveyed so far showed signs of damage, it was not as extensive as feared.

"Casualties seem light, according to the helicopter surveys," said one.

Many of the villages are still cut off by landslides and damage to rudimentary roads. It may be days before rescue workers are able to reach them on foot to make accurate estimates of the toll, the official added.

The officials said only eight helicopters were operating and some villages remained unsurveyed. But they described the reports as encouraging after days of unremitting gloom.

The helicopters were dropping food and clothing as protection against increasingly cold nights in villages perched on hills up to 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) above sea level.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao visited the area Wednesday and Uttar Pradesh officials said he was expected to promise funds for reconstruction.

Apart from material damage — still unassessed but expected to be huge — the hill people may have lost many of the sheep and goats on which they depend.

"We expect the loss of livestock to be extensive," one official said.



Vaclav Havel

U.S. rejects Prague request to enter NATO

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration is rejecting an effort by former Communist countries in Eastern Europe to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) as associate members.

The administration told Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel Tuesday that the United States can support only a liaison relationship for Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary with NATO, a spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the administration signed a new investment treaty to mark Mr. Havel's second visit to the United States since wresting power from the Communists in December 1989.

President George Bush said the pact would assure "an attractive investment climate for American firms" in Czechoslovakia, which is suffering economic hardships because of a collapse in its exports, particularly to the Soviet Union.

Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Niles said Mr. Havel, during a four-day visit, sought a more institutionalised relationship between his country and NATO to provide for increased security.

Crime wave hits Haitian capital

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — A wave of burglaries and drug dealing has hit the Haitian capital in the wake of the military coup that deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, radio and newspaper reports said.

Radio Metropole and the newspaper Le Nouvelliste reported an increase in armed holdups and burglaries of stores during the past four days. Informed sources told Reuters the street supply of cocaine and marijuana had soared.

"We could be seeing a return to the violence and lawlessness that was tolerated under the previous military regimes, or even encouraged in order to reinforce a climate of fear," one Western diplomat said.

The impoverished Caribbean island is now ruled by a military-backed provisional government installed after Mr. Aristide's ouster in a Sept. 30 coup.

The international community has shunned the new regime as illegal and has threatened a trade embargo.

Many Haitians believe periodic crime waves between 1987 and 1990 were politically motivated.

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Mobutu silent on new premier, riots

KINSHASA (AP) — President Mobutu Sese Seko's grip on this central African nation appeared further weakened Wednesday. For the second time in a month he was unable to control rioting soldiers and he was rebuffed in his attempt to force opposition leaders to replace Etienne Tshisekedi as prime minister.

Belgian paratroopers evacuated hundreds of foreigners from the southern mining centre of Lubumbashi Tuesday, and the evacuation was continuing Wednesday. The city had escaped last month's mutiny by unpaid soldiers, but on Monday, soldiers

formed sources told Reuters the street supply of cocaine and marijuana had soared.

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U.S. may step up phase out of ozone-damaging chemicals

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government says it will consider pushing for speeded-up action to combat damage to the Earth's ozone layer in the face of a dire United Nations report on accelerating ozone depletion — but not until next September.

William K. Reilly, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, said the United States already is ahead of the schedule required by U.S. laws and an international agreement for elimination of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) that trigger the chemical breakdown of ozone.

"We will meet next September and consider whether the phaseout schedule we are on is sufficient," Mr. Reilly said. "I think this data will cause us to look very hard at the possibility of advancing the phaseout dates."

The deadline in the treaty is the year 2000 for the United States and other developed countries, and 2010 for the developing world. Mexico has agreed to a

2000 deadline and Mr. Reilly said the United States hopes other developing countries will do so too.

Mr. Reilly commented in an interview Tuesday after the United Nations Environment Programme announced in New York that damage to the ozone layer was accelerating at such a rate that levels could drop by 3 per cent in the next decade, leading to a 10 per cent increase in skin cancer.

"The situation is definitely getting much worse than what was expected," said Moteza K. Tolba, executive director of the U.N. programme.

Mr. Tolba also called for acceleration of the timetable for a CFC ban under the international agreement, known as the Montreal protocol.

In the United States, CFCs are used primarily as coolants in air conditioners and refrigerators and as propellants in the production of foam plastics.

The researchers found that

ozone was being depleted all across the northern and southern hemisphere in the spring and summer, which they said was not known to have happened before.

"What has come out today is the information that the problem doesn't away," said Mr. Reilly. "I think it shows that we have significantly destabilised a fundamental natural system vital to our lives and well being and need to accelerate our efforts to fix it."

Michael Oppenheimer of the New York-based Environmental Defence Fund described the situation as an emergency and said, "Frankly, it would be a gross abdication of responsibility if the Bush administration continued to sit back on their heels and did nothing. The world needs leadership: if we're going to eliminate these chemicals as soon as possible."

Mr. Reilly responded, "where the scientific data is conclusive, the Bush administration is acting very aggressively."

But David Doniger, an attorney

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. fire death toll rises to 19

OAKLAND, California (R) — The death toll from one of the costliest fires in U.S. history rose to 19 Tuesday as scores of firemen doused dying embers of a blaze that destroyed luxury homes in a San Francisco suburb. The fire that raced across hillsides on the fringes of Oakland and Berkeley on the eastern slopes of San Francisco Bay Sunday claimed at least 19 lives, with 57 missing and 148 injured, said emergency spokesman Captain Rick Noble. Officials said 5,000 people were forced to leave their homes and 1,811 houses and nearly 450 flats were destroyed. Capt. Noble said investigators blamed the blaze, estimated to have caused at least \$1.5 billion damage, on a small grass fire Saturday put out by firemen which flared up again Sunday.

9 killed in renewed S. Africa violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — At least nine South African blacks were killed and 36 injured Wednesday when a gang rampaged through a rush hour commuter train in Soweto, the second such attack in a week. Witnesses said the gang, wielding guns, knives and clubs, beat and terrorised commuters on the packed train, hacking and shooting their victims and tossing bodies from the carriages. "The blood is flowing everywhere. People were cut and shot to bits. Some bodies are in pieces," one shocked commuter told reporters. Corpses lay strewn along the track and on station platforms in the Nanofield and Orlando districts of the township near Johannesburg. Some had been mutilated by the train's wheels, they said. One witness said a computer who jumped from the train and tried to flee the carnage was caught by the gang and hacked to death on the spot. Scapegoating random train attacks have become a horrific trade mark of a township battle for political supremacy between supporters of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and those of its rival, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

Treasury has lost \$100 bill plate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government has lost a plate used to print the face of \$100 bills, a congressman has lost. Rep. Frank Annunzio, said the plate, which prints a sheet of 32 bills, was last seen at the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing in July 1990. Efforts by the bureau and the secret service to find the 25-by-20-inch (55-by-44-centimetre) plate have been unsuccessful, he said. "One theory is that it was thrown out in the trash," he said. However, bureau spokesman Ira Polikoff said officials believe the plate was destroyed but do not have the paperwork to substantiate it. "One of two things happened," he said. "One, the plate was destroyed or inadvertently discarded in our metal trash for shredding." Polikoff also said no bills have appeared bearing the serial number involved on the plate.

Boat people return home voluntarily

HONG KONG (AP) — More than 260 Vietnamese boat people returned voluntarily to their homeland Wednesday, two days after Britain and Vietnam agreed to send back a small group of boat people against their will. Meanwhile, more than 6,000 Vietnamese demonstrated peacefully against any plans to forcibly repatriate more boat people. A Cathay Pacific charter flight from Hong Kong to Hanoi took home 263 Vietnamese Wednesday under a 2-year-old voluntary repatriation programme supervised by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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